# THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

July 21st—27th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 29

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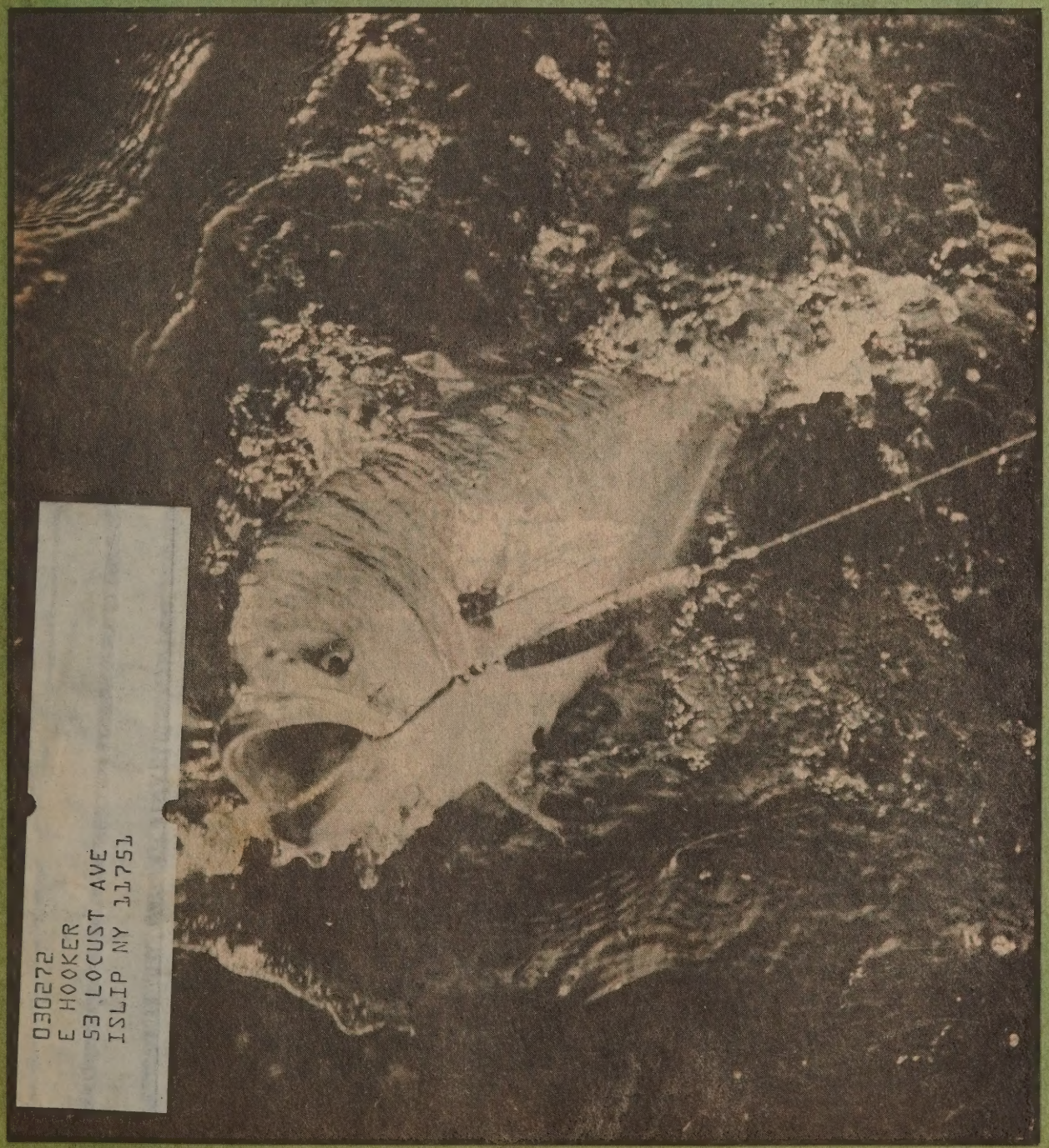


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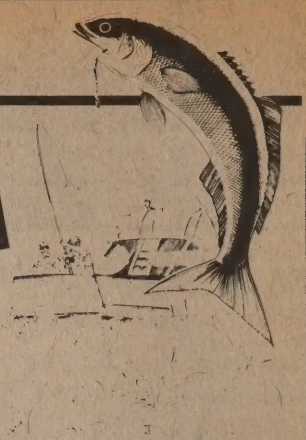

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# THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 18, Number 29 July 21st, 1983


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## ABOUT THE COVER:

Excellent bluefish action around many parts of the Island should keep anglers busy this weekend. Chopper fans will find three articles dealing with their favorite game fish in this week's issue. Cover by Pete Barrett.


| | |
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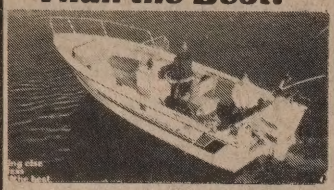

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# EDITORIAL

## SEND-A-KID FISHING

As a youngster growing up on Long Island, I had plenty to be grateful for. Summers were filled with days spent catching snappers, blowfish, eels and crabs from Grandma's dock in Bayport. Then there were trips to Captree with dad where many a fine catch of fluke was racked up and in later years, regular junkets aboard the family boat provided plenty of memorable innings with everything from kingfish to stripers.

Uncle Rudy always provided a few thrilling trips aboard Montauk charter boats each summer and it will be a long time before I forget the thrills of seeing my first leaping white marlin or the screeching sound of six reels being stripped by husky bluefin tuna. Uncle Rudy also hosted my introduction to the Montauk surf and was as generous as any uncle could be in sharing his hard earned vacation time with an over-zealous nephew. My love for the surf was further fueled by regular trips to Robert Moses where my father would drop me off on his way in to work at 6AM and retrieve me on his return trip twelve or so hours later.

Mom was forever justifying our absence from school each April 1st so that we could herald in the opening of trout season in appropriate fashion. While bicycles provided most of our transportation to and from local haunts, Mom never hesitated to chauffeur us off to places out of biking range or to bail us out those occasional times when buckets overflowed with flounder.

And there were those many trips with people like Eric Ramsay, Roy Nuenes, Carl Dahl, Vic Young, and Bob Haas and Skeet Smith. All took the time to teach, and share with an eager youngster, their knowledge and love of fishing.

So you see, I was one of the lucky ones. Graced with parents who encouraged the natural interest that all children seem to possess for fishing, and friends and relatives who so generously shared the sport, I developed a deep-rooted love for the game. Now, as an adult, fishing has developed even more significance by providing a reprieve from deadlines and the pressures created by everyday life. Along with this love for fishing came greater respect and appreciation for nature and all its creatures. A valuable lesson that many youngsters (and adults) could stand to benefit from.

I'm sure plenty of other guys and girls took their youthful introduction to fishing for granted. It's an easy thing to do if you're taken under the wing of the right person or if you've been raised near or on the water. Unfortunately, there are plenty of kids out there, who for one reason or another, don't get the opportunity to spend a summer day out fishing. Some have gotten a taste somewhere down the line and yearn for more, others simply don't know what they are missing and for them, that one day afloat could be the highlight of their entire summer.

Well, to make that trip a reality, we at The Fisherman have instituted the Send-A-Kid Fishing Program with the hope that many of our readers, advertisers, fishing clubs and related organizations would be willing to share in this effort. The response up to now has been gratifying but there are still plenty of you out there who we haven't heard from and even more youngsters out there longing for a day of fishing fun.

While most kids are being recruited from organizations such as Big Brothers and PAL, we would like to book a couple of trips for unaffiliated youngsters who are in just as much, if not more, need of a day on the water. Let's hear from some of those kids or if you know a youngster who could benefit from this program, send us his or her name. The only requirement for unaffiliated youngsters is that they have transportation to and from Captree Boat Basin where the Captree Boatmen's Association, and Captain Gordon Roman in particular, have cooperated in lining up boats and offering us a special reduced fair package for half day fluke trips. All trips will be made during August.

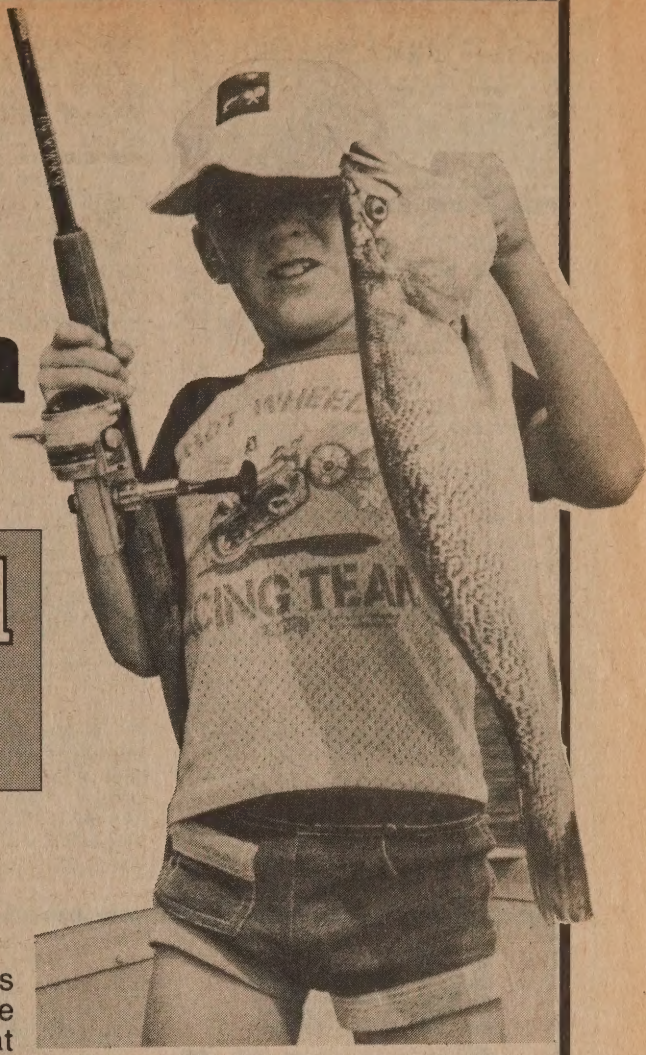
So here it is. A perfect opportunity to make sure that some youngster gets to taste some of the joy that you knew as a youngster or maybe later on as an adult. All the information you need is on the facing page. Let's show these kids what fishing is all about!

Fred Golfaro

# Join With Us At THE Fisherman And

# Send-A-Kid Fishing

# This Summer!



It's a sad fact that many youngsters never get the opportunity to experience the joys that fishing can provide. We, here at **The Fisherman**, feel that the need to introduce youngsters to this healthy and wholesome sport has never been greater.

If you agree, and would like to join with us in making the **Send-A-Kid Fishing** program a success, won't you please send along a small donation to help us fund fishing trips for these boys and girls. A donation of $8.00 will cover the cost of a day's fishing for one youngster but any contribution at all will be greatly appreciated. How about everyone (individuals, fishing clubs, fishing related businesses and organizations, etc.) joining in and showing these kids what fishing, and fishermen, are all about. A listing of the names of all those who contribute to the program will appear in **The Fisherman** at the close of summer.

**Yes, I would like to "Send-A-Kid Fishing" this summer.**
**Enclosed is a donation in the amount of** _____

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# PASS IT ON...

### CO-OP CITY ANGLERS ELECT NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS

The Riverbay Sportsmen's Club, Inc. (Co-Op City Anglers) is proud to announce its newly elected slate of officers for 1983.

The new officers are as follows: President—Stuart P. Rosenbaum; Vice-President—Joseph Weinrauch; Treasurer—Fred Landau; Recording Secretary—Bert Nival; Corresponding Secretary—Cathy Racanelli; Trustees: John Rodriguez, Shirley Ashbourne, Marty Eckhouse; Sergeant-of-Arms—Floyd Ashbourne.

### MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES AT THE CROSSROADS

The 8th Annual Marine Recreational Fisheries (MRF) Symposium, sponsored by the Coalition, the Sport Fishing Institute and the International Game Fish Association, was held in San Diego, California on April 26 and 27, 1983. Nearly 200 fishermen, scientists and administrators attended the symposium to hear six panels of fisheries experts address the theme of "Marine Recreational Fisheries at the Crossroads" and to actively participate in discussions.

Keynote speaker Robert Jones, one of the nation's foremost marine resource consultants, kicked things off by identifying the challenge to management as the improvement of MRF in the face of changing stock abundance and environmental conditions. Jones cited the lack of good biological and economic data on sport fishing and the need for increased attention to predator/prey relationships and habitat quality as major issues.

The first panel gave a general accounting of marine resources and habitat using regional examples to illustrate broad trends. Elizabeth Venrick of Scripps Institution of Oceanography discussed forces outside the control of man that influence production and abundance. There is a certain amount of natural unpredictability for near-shore fisheries, she said, which managers must take into account in both planning strategies and assessing results. John Pearce, habitat expert with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), told how use of the ocean for multiple purposes has resulted in some highly polluted areas. "Far more monitoring and environmental research (on habitat degradation and its effect on fish) are required," he said, but since managers will never have all the data they want, they have to strive to make better use of what is available.

User groups were profiled in panel two. Frank Cogdell, president of the Sport Fishing Inst., contrasted the diffuse organization of the sport fishing community with its enormous social and economic value. Maintaining that "the future of the MRF industry will be directly dependent upon the relative abundance of fishery resources," Cogdell stressed the critical role of anglers and the industry in the management process.

The second half of the panel was given over to a search for a common ground among all fishermen. Lee Weddig of the National Fisheries Institute, acknowledging that conflicts between commercial and recreational fishermen may be inevitable in allocation decisions, identified several areas of common interest, such as the prevention of overfishing and protection of habitat. Edwin Martin, an angler from southern California, declared that conflicts between the two groups are the result of resource scarcity and agreed with Weddig that commercial and sport fishermen must work together and put greater emphasis on conservation. Management alone, he said, will not reduce conflicts.

The third panel examined the nuts and bolts of how a modern fishery is managed. NMFS biologist Gary Stauffer described the immense complexity of the scientific stock assessment tools used today which, in in-


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corporating multi-species and ecosystem models, require vast amount of data. To date, scientists have been unable to provide this data except for major long-standing fisheries, he said. Richard Hennemuth, NMFS northeast center director, addressed the bridge from science to management. The role of the scientist, he said, is to attempt to understand and predict natural processes and to relate this information to managers in a clear manner. The manager in turn must adapt this to social goals using his own experience and knowledge. The head of the California Fish & Game (CF&G) enforcement division James Messersmith, followed, saying that in order to achieve enforceable management measures, they should be developed in an open forum involving all interested parties and the reasons for the rules communicated to the public through every available channel.

Existing institutional frameworks for fisheries management were analysed by the fourth panel. Carmen Blondin of the NMFS International Affairs Office described international negotiations such as those at ICCAT as slow and frustrating, saying that "the achievement of success...requires patience." He also pointed to the need for a quality of scientific information at such forums which will lead to more general agreement and be less subject to political interpretation. Interstate fisheries management presents many of the same problems, according to John Gottschalk of the Int'l Assn. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The record to date, Gottschalk opined, does not give cause for optimism. He advocated a better-informed relationship between the regulators and the regulated as a starting point for progress. Conservationist and author George Reiger assessed the country's private angling and conservation groups, cautioning them against allowing conservation to become institutionalized and urging leaders to stay hungry in the pursuit of their goals.

An example of nearly every kind of management problem raised in previous discussions was exhibited in panel five's report on efforts to manage various species. Eugene Fleming of CF&G cited the dynamic nature of pelagic fisheries over time, a fact which requires flexibility in management strategies. NMFS biologist Richard Methot cited transboundary distribution as the chief obstacle to managing inshore stocks. NMFS economist Daniel Huppert characterized the anchovy problem as one of uncertainty about the management. And Allen Peterson, NMFS northeast region director, stressed the difficulty of managing a complex fishery such as salmon or striped bass with knowledge that is based largely on guesswork and which is subject to much interpretation.

The final panel was, in effect, an attempt to anser the larger questions posed by the previous five panels.


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Charles Lyles of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, in responding to the question, Does MRF management make sense, answered with a qualified "yes." The necessary ingredients, according to Lyles, are a clear statement of agency policy and responsibility, agency authority to make all rules and regulations, and regulations made on the best available scientific information. CF&G biologist Richard Klingbeil tackled the question, Is MRF Management possible, by taking a hard look at the record and concluding that though many negative aspects may suggest that it is not possible, the management process must and will continue. The uncertainties and guesswork involved make management experimental, he said. "We periodically evalute the results of actions and rearrange the design, if necessary."

The main issues facing the future of MRF were outlined by NMFS director William Gordon. He foresees more allocation problems requiring better information, particularly socio-economic. Conservation will be a fundamental concern, and again more research will be needed, but Gordon also called for a stronger conservation ethic among fishermen. Funding for MRF programs will become increasingly scarce, making user-pay systems such as saltwater licensing an inevitable development. And finally Gordon cited habitat quality as the most important factor of all, but the hardest to conserve. To stop indiscriminate destruction of habitat, he warned, will require a united effort from all fishermen.

### REPRINTS OF COAST GUARD MARITIME REGS PUBLISHED BY HOUSTON MARINE

Three reprints of U.S. Coast maritime regulations governing small passenger and uninspected vessels as well as merchant marine officers, seamen and motorboat operators have been published by Houston Marine Consultants, Inc. of New Orleans to assist boat operators, license holders and vessel personnel in complying with federal requirements.

The regulations, reprinted from Subchapters T, C, and B of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), cover licensing, inspection and certification of small passenger vessels under 100 gross tons; requirements for uninspected vessels and licensing of merchant vessel personnel.

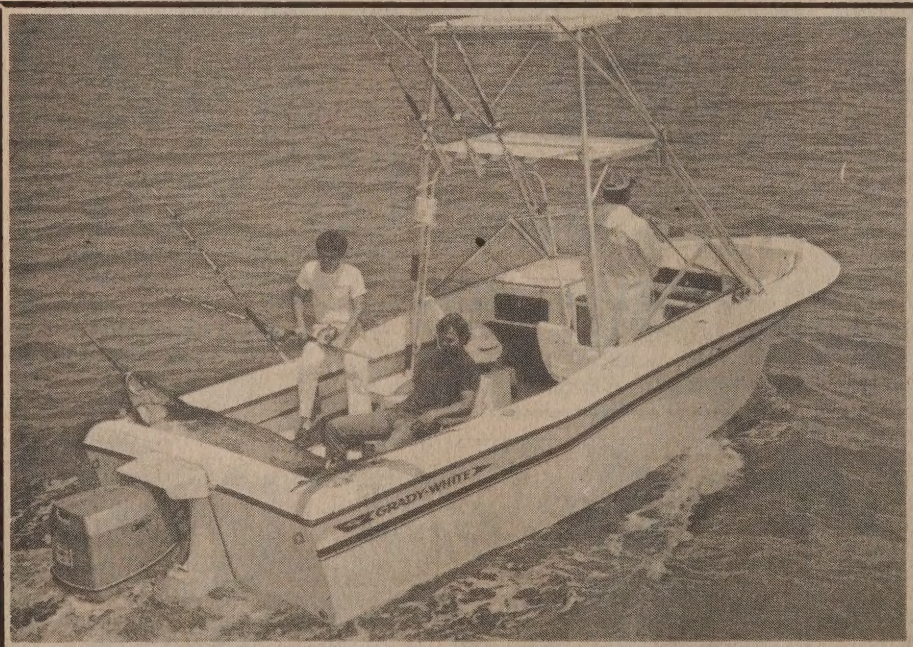
The Subchapter T reprint on small passenger vessels is a handy on-board reference which can also help owners and captains in advising crew on upgrading their licenses. In addition, individuals studying for inland or ocean operator licenses will find it helpful in preparing for the Coast Guard exams.

Operators of uninspected towing vessels, motorboats and other uninspected vessels will find the Subchapter C reprint useful in understanding requirements for vessel operation, life-saving devices and fire equipment. The Subchapter B reprint on licensing is an excellent source of information for personnel managers on eligibility requirements and the application procedures for U.S. Coast Guard licenses ranging from Able Seamen to Unlimited Masters.

Single copies of "Subchapter T—Small Passenger Vessels," "Subchapter C—Uninspected Vessels" and "Subchapter B—Merchant Marine Officers and Seamen" are available for $6.50, $5.50 and $6.50, respectively, plus $1 for shipping, from: Houston Marine Consultants, Inc., 1600 20th St., Kenner, LA 70062. Shipping costs for 3-5 copies are $1.50 and for 6-10 copies, $2. Individuals wishing to order these publications can also call, toll-free, 1-800-535-8803. Louisiana residents should call 1-800-922-8868.

### LADY REELERS ON MAIDEN SHARK TRIP

The Lady Reelers maiden shark trip aboard Captain Ken' Nikara out of Montauk proved to be a success! Fishing south of the Point, Gert Eberhardt of Holbrook caught a 200 lb. blue shark; Elaine Dougherty of Brentwood tagged a blue shark about 80 lbs. and proceeded to catch another about 200 lbs. Norma McCarthy of Ridge had blue shark fever also and got two in the 125-150 lb. range. Alice Mohlenhoff of Bayport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caught a 45 lb. mako.

The June Fluke Derby was won by Elaine Dougherty with a 3 lb. 2 oz. fluke caught off the State Channel.

June's inshore catches for the month include: Donna Pratt, 10.9 lb. weakfish and 19½ lb. striped bass caught off Eaton's Neck. Virginia Smith caught a 4.9 lb. fluke off Jones Inlet. Phyllis O'Donnell, 7.4 lb. fluke from Swift Creek and Sue Cox, 3.7 lb. fluke was caught while fishing Gardiner's Island.

### HOUSE BILL WOULD CREATE A NATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING LICENSE

Congressman Harold S. Sawyer (R-MI) introduced a Uniform Recreational Fishery Licensing Act (HR 2965) that would prohibit persons between the ages of 16 and 62 from engaging "in fishing for recreation in tidal waters without a marine recreational license" issued under a state licensing program or by the federal government. The Act provides that a license issued by any state will be valid in any bordering state and that charter and head boats must obtain a $500 boat license.

Usually state resistance to a federal power grab is high. In the case of the Uniform Licensing Act the sponsors hope to soften the opposition by allowing state licensing where the state program conforms to federal standards established by the Act. The Act requires that revenues from the sale of licenses must be paid into a special account which can only be used for developing marine recreational facilities (launching ramps, fish aggregating devices, etc.), research relating to management of recreational fishing, habitat protection and other projects approved by a board of recreational fishing representatives. The Act seeks to motivate states to adopt conforming licensing laws by providing that the federal government will license anglers where no state law exists.

Saltwater licensing has been strongly advocated by many saltwater fishing organizations and publications for a number of years. The Coalition is on record in favor of a marine angling license provided that license funds are dedicated to providing benefits for saltwater sport fishing. Nevertheless, because a few individuals have made a career of preaching with evangelical zeal against any form of sport fishing license of any kind, it is unclear whether a majority of fishermen are for or against it. Moreover, technical problems involving regulations concerning the establishment of dedicated funds have raised doubts whether some states could comply with the Act, even if it was otherwise deemed desirable.

### —ATTENTION—

If you have any important information that you would like to share with our readers, send it copy-ready to: The Fisherman, P.O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963.


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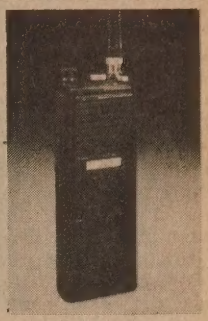

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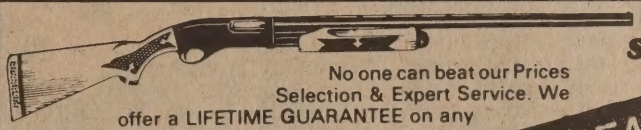

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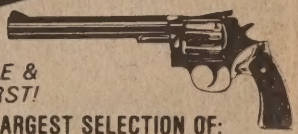

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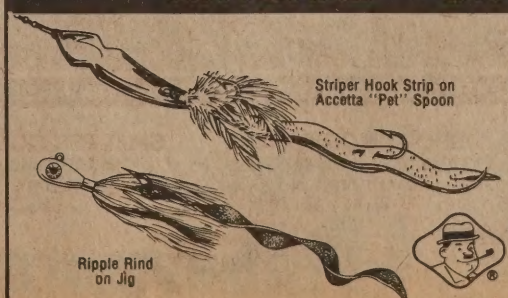


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# NORTH SHORE SHORELINES

## *by Andy Regina*

**The author explores some of the shore fishing possibilities available to western Long Island Sound anglers.**

Long Island separates two bodies of water—the Atlantic Ocean and the Sound that bears its name, both as separate and distinct as the shores they lap on. Whereas the south shore features a lot of broad sandy beaches and a true surf, the north shore is basically rocky with a calm, gentle wash. Our beaches are small, with giant boulders strewn along coarse gravel, and generally backed-up by mountainous sandstone cliffs. They are also mostly private property and off-limits to the public. Their best feature, however, is that they are extremely productive for land-bound beach rats and jetty jockeys, an appeal so overwhelming that few of us can resist its magical allure.

We have a wide variety of fish at our disposal, both bottom feeders and inshore game fish, and if our particular choice is not at hand immediately nearby, a short trip usually brings us to within striking distance. Our playground is the western portion of the Sound and a lot of our fishing is done within the confines of the Bronx, merely a matter of minutes from our home. Most of our traveling is merely up to Mattinecock Point, about one-half hour away by car. Within that limited range we have been fortunate enough to have caught every fish indigenous to the area, be it bottom fish or game fish, on bait and lures. You can do the same if you are willing to devote time and effort in your endeavors. Perhaps we can help a bit with some information.

At the start of the season we use worm baits over mud or sand bottoms for flounder. The rig is your basic flounder rig, two small Chestertown hooks (about size 8 or 10) tied in tandem directly above a bank sinker, the weight of which will vary due to tides and currents, the size of your tackle and the strength of the line. Big tackle and heavy line is not necessary most of the time except, perhaps, when you are fishing sticky structure, like rocks. Here the heavy stuff will cut down on breakoffs when you get stuck on bottom. We delight in using fairly light tackle, one of our favorite combos being a seven foot Childre graphite "Bucktail Stick" and a Shimano Bantam 300 baitcasting reel filled with new 10 pound test Ande pink mono line. Light enough to provide maximum enjoyment with small stuff like flounder, this outfit is also gutsy enough to handle tough brawlers like bass and bluefish of mid-teen weights.

**Blackfish, some big, inhabit most any rocky point or jetty area in this part of the Sound.**

The flounder are fairly plentiful and usually pretty easy to catch. I say "usually" because, like everything else in this highly frustrating sport of ours, nothing can be taken for granted at any time. Sometimes that which we think is easy becomes difficult, and there are occasions when even the greatest hotshot on the Sound gets skunked. Mostly though, once you

(Continued on next page.)

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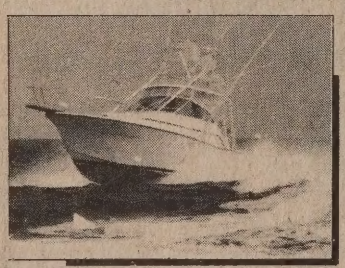
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have chosen your target site, it is merely a matter of placing your baited hooks on the bottom there and waiting until a hungry flounder ingests one of them. The tip of the rod signals company coming for dinner as the fish chews on the bait, and all you have to do is reel it in and place it on your stringer. You can prod lazy feeders into action by jigging your rod slightly or by salting the area at low tide before fishing the incoming. Often, by scattering bits of broken clams or mussels there or by digging up the area beforehand, we can provide that extra little incentive that boatmen offer by using a chum pot. As the flounder move onto the flats with the rising water, they root in the bottom for worms and bits of shell life, and your salted area should theoretically bring them to within sight and smell of your baits. Reeling baits in slowly along the bottom helps at times, too.

Most of the Bronx shoreline should provide a few flounder. Do not be dismayed at the litter strewn along the shore; those old cars or whatever do not detract flounder from visiting that area, provided bottom structure is to their liking and there is ample forage. Any beach from the Throgg's Neck Bridge to Hunter Island can produce, with most rods spiked in front of the old Bronx Beach and Pool, in Eastchester Bay and along Pelham Bay, on the jetties at both ends of Orchard Beach and the lagoon behind the parking lot and on the shore of Hunter Island, just past the beach. On the Long Island side, Little Neck Bay gets heavy action, as does the bridge and barge of the marina there, as well as the jetties west of old Fort Totten and the shore from there to the foot of the bridge. The beaches and jetties strung out from Barker's Point east to Sands Point and Prospect Point are also good at times, as is the area leading into Hempstead Harbor, from Prospect Point past Mott's Point. Caution though, these beaches are private and owner permission is required. The beaches from Mattinecock Point to Peacock Point, as well as the pier at Prybil Beach, host flounder, and behind that, Dosoris Pond produces through the entire summer.

We are usually forced to discontinue flounder fishing due to the annual invasion of bergalls (cunners) into the Sound when water temperatures warm up enough to their liking. These voracious animals devour baits immediately and make all attempts at catching a few flounder all but impossible, not to mention extremely costly. Now is the time to switch targets; it is also the start of the multiple choice season, where we have two or more different species to select from. Bottom bouncers go after the blackfish now infiltrating rocky areas; others, perhaps more selective or experienced, initiate the game fish season with the spring immigration of striped bass. The blacks like rocks and wrecks, and come close inshore early-on to grub for worms and clams along gravel beaches. Normal blackfish rigs of tandem-tied Virginia hooks baited with sand worms, clams or any crab including the popular fiddler and green crab are used on or close to rocky or mussel-strewn patches, to intercept feeding tautogs. If bergalls are too plentiful, we use hard-shelled baits in an effort to have something left on the hook should interested blackfish cruise by.

Almost any structure that hosts marine life, like colonies of barnacles or cluster of mussels or oysters, will normally support a resident population of tautogs, attracting transients as well. Besides the rocks and other rough patches, old wrecks and bridge abutments are likely areas, as are the pilings of old docks and piers or any other structure that remains underwater. In fact, the older the better sometimes, because of that mandatory marine growth. If there ain't no growth, fish some place else because you just ain't gonna catch any blackfish there anyway! We won't go into methods and techniques now. If you're unsure of how to catch blackfish, simply refer to a back issue of The Fisherman and you'll probably find what you want to know. If not, just drop me a line.

The points of land on the north shore, mentioned above, all host a supply of blackfish in various amounts from time to time, and any jetty along that shore is almost a certain guarantee of success. The jetty at Fort Schuyler comes to mind because of its productivity, but you need a pass to fish on the Fort. It is a simple matter to obtain that pass if you want one, just stop at the guard shack located at the entrance, where, for a small fee, you'll be accommodated. Outside of Fort Totten are two jetties that require no passes, and the abutments of the Throgg's Neck and Whitestone bridges provide fairly good blackfishing without any cost.

Later in the season we get some decent porgy fishing all along the north shore. Mattinecock in October rings my bell the loudest, although you can catch those little rascals almost anywhere, with the same points playing a predominant role once again. This time you can fish as far west as the Bronx shoreline and as far north as the last jetty on Orchard Beach, and still have fun catching silver dollars, which is what we call our sand porgies. Clam baits and sandworms on small (size 6) beak-style hooks, tandem tied above a sinker and fished directly on bottom, do the job.

Our game fish season usually gets under way early in May, with striped bass taken on the bottom with worms, in Little Neck Bay or Cold Spring Harbor. Oyster Bay, the Bayville Bridge and Huntington Harbor also produce early-on with bait, but there we switch to chunk baits and live herring as soon as possible. Fish-finder rigs are the ticket with any bait, as bass can mouth and start swimming away with worms, chunks or live

fish without realizing there's a catch to the free lunch. Towards the latter part of the month, the warming waters induce baitfish into our area and the time for using artificials is upon us. Little lures, such as baby bucktails or eelworms, tiny plugs, tins or whiptails, do well now. Any lure you like to use is effective, just as long as you keep it small. As tiny bait gets replaced by bigger stuff, we step up our arsenal accordingly. Closer to home, we haunt such places as the shoreline from Peacock Point to Matinecock Point, concentrating on the area from Prybil Beach west to the Point itself. There, the rocky, gravelly beach and the moles and jetties all spell stripers with a capital "S," with bluefish a distinct possibility any time and an occasional weakfish, to boot. Still on Long Island's north shore, but closer to the city, is Mott Point, Prospect Point, Sands Point and Barker's Point, each productive in its own right, as are the rocky beaches and sandy stretches between each separate point. All can be fished the same way, either with bait or lures, as techniques do not vary within such a small area; neither do the feeding habits of game fish who often proceed from one point to another according to rising or ebbing tides, going along the line like cafeteria patrons. Like most surf fishing everywhere else, the north shore produces best at night because of the greater sense of security game fish feel under cover of darkness. And, like everywhere else once again, there may be an occasional fish, even a blitz, during daylight, a feat not impossible with those crazy bluefish around.

The Bronx shoreline produces a lot of striped bass and bluefish from springtime through autumn, with summer almost exclusively a night-time affair. Should you venture forth after dark, never go alone if you can help it, because the night, unfortunately, does not belong to sportsmen alone. Starting from the bridges, it's possible to work northeast along the Tremont-Country Club shore to Eastchester Bay, from there all around the shoreline past the City Island Bridge into Pelham Bay, then on to Orchard Beach and Hunter Island, just past the beach. Plugs early in the morning and in the evening, usually small tins during the day, then bait or plugs at night.

Work the points, dropoffs and jetties, both day and night, remembering that most times a slow retrieve seems to produce best in darkness. Try taking along two rods—one strictly as a meat stick for bait fishing and the other to work lures with, thereby providing yourself with a bit of insurance against getting skunked. At times, you will find that one method outfishes the other, and at other times, it will be just the opposite. I can't make the connection, no matter how hard I try, so chalk it up to one more phenomenon you will experience as you fish along our North Shore Shorelines.


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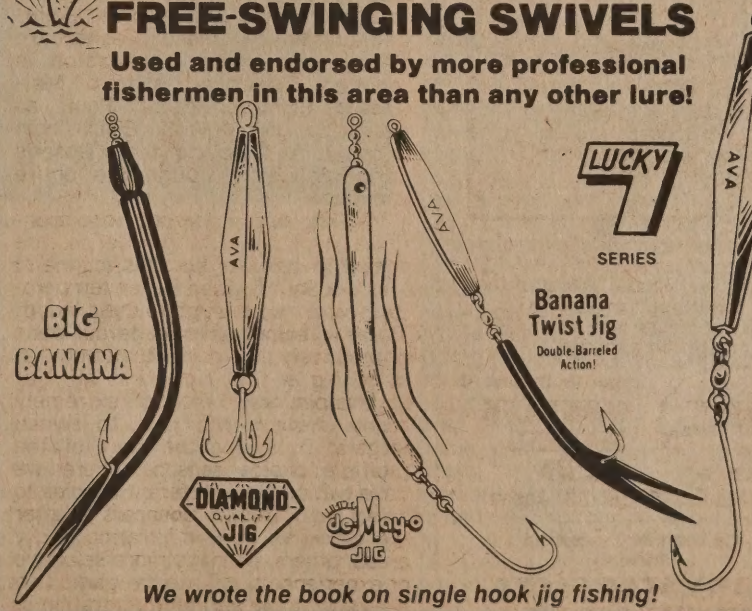


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# IN THE "BLUE" OF THE NIGHT

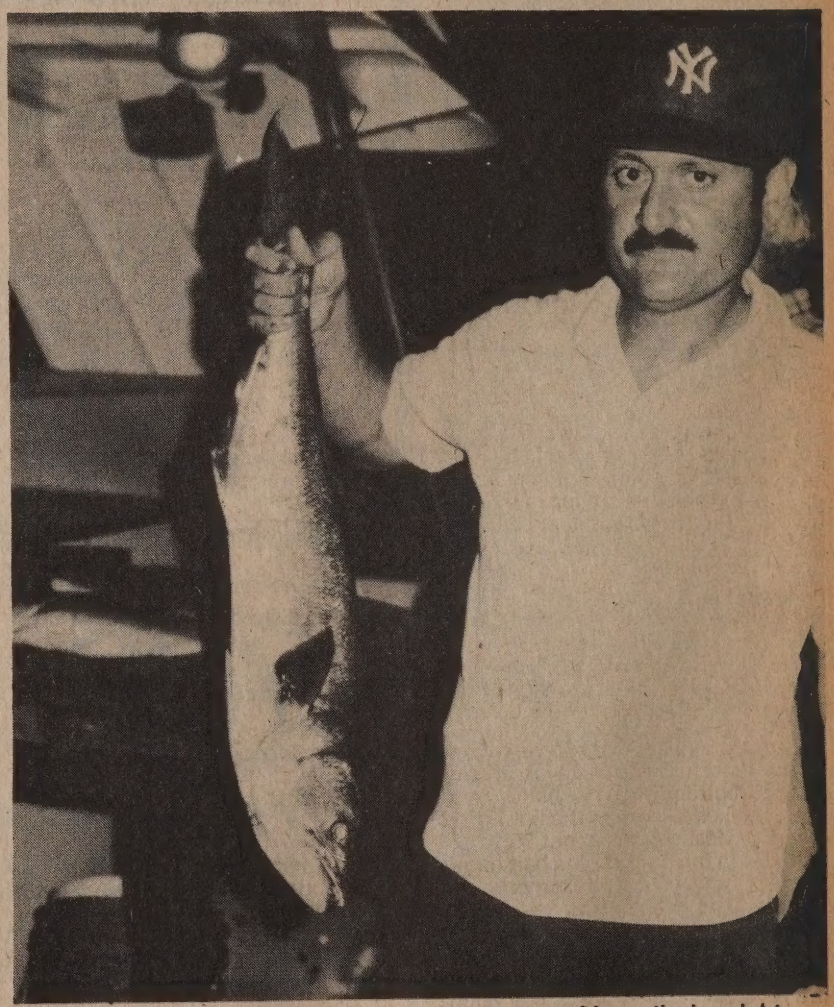
## by Gerald Hahn

**From Sheepshead Bay to Montauk, scores of bluefish fans eagerly await the approach of nightfall.**

Nighttime fishing on party boats is like combining two styles of jazz music: cool and hot. In the summer, the nighttime fisherman stays cool, while the fishing is often hot. Party boat schedules, moreover, are well suited to people with flexible leisure hours: workers and students on holiday, retirees, and a few wide-eyed youngsters for whom fishing in the late hours is an unusual thrill in itself. But none of these reasons would justify fishing at night were it not so productive.

Indeed, at Montauk, for example, nighttime bluefishing in the summer is often better than in the day, even though anglers use exactly the same methods and rigs. Montauk's party boat anglers, fishing south of Block Island, catch most of their blues on the bottom, with a 10 ounce chain-and-drail rig baited with a foot long bunker or herring. An eight inch window sash chain, connected to an in-line trolling sinker with an S-connector, serves as the leader to this gaudy rig. Two 8/0 or 10/0 O'Shaughnessy hooks are attached high-low fashion to the chain with stainless steel split rings or Duo-Lock snaps. The adjustable top hook (for different sized baits) goes through the bait's lower jaw and out the top of its head, and the bottom hook is impaled near the tail. On some boats, only a single hook is employed, and the baitfish's head is secured instead with a Duo-Lock snap which is inserted through the eyes. Like the top hook, the snap can be secured at various distances from the bottom hook, thereby custom-fitting the rig to the bait. Rigged either way, the chain is kept straight against the baitfish's side and prevents it from curling unnaturally.

On the West End, however, there's a considerable difference between fishing for blues at night and in the day. Daytime fishermen rely almost exclusively on diamond jigs to catch blues, whereas nighttime anglers use strip baits cut from the back of a bunker or mackerel, or whole small baitfish, such as butterfish, smelt, spearing, or sand eels. Here the only time a daytime fisherman uses bait is when the fishing is terribly poor or when fishing for blues at a wreck. At night, blues are not likely to pursue a lure they can hardly see. It must be said, however, that occasionally on bright nights a luminescent diamond jig or one covered with brightly colored heat-shrink plastic, can be effective. The luminescent jig is covered with a chemically treated plastic that glows in the dark. When it fades, holding it near a deck light "recharges" it.



This Yankee fan chose bluefish over baseball on this particular night.

Nonetheless, the majority of nighttime fishermen, from Sheepshead Bay to Captree, catch their blues with bait, and depending on the bluefish, the bait can be fished on the bottom or on top. Unlike Montauk's gaudy jewelry, West End bottom rigs are nearly invisible. A typical rig consists of a six to eight ounce bank sinker secured to an end loop on the fishing line, and a dropper loop about a foot above for the hook. A 6/0 brown O'Shaughnessy or beak hook is attached to a 5 inch wire leader, also brown, and a dark barrel swivel which is connected to the dropper. On some boats, a one half by three inch strip of mackerel or bunker is impaled twice near one end, so that the other end dangles in the current. Other boats provide butterfish which are hooked through the eyes and in the shoulder. Though not as oily as bunker or mackerel, the butterfish is whole and highly visible. The other baits are generally rigged with smaller hooks for small blues, 2/0 to 4/0 hooks impaled through the eyes or in the mouth and out the gills, and then near the tail.

Nighttime bottom fishing, both at Montauk and in the West End, is

similar to bottom fishing for other species. The baited rig is lowered to the ocean floor, 80 to 120 feet below, and is held still or occasionally raised and lowered a few feet. When a blue takes the bait, the fisherman pauses briefly, then sets the hook and begins the long retrieve. Bottom fishing for blues is not the most exciting way to catch them, but many times it is the most lucrative.

Nighttime fishing, however, really comes into its own when blues are feeding near the surface, and fortunately this happens most of the time in the West End. The boat's deck lights and overhead floods create a brilliant circle of light, like a spotlight on a dark stage, and numerous baitfish are attracted to its glow: schools of pink squid, silver sand eels, green tinker mackerel, and occasionally blue-purple garfish and blue-green needlefish. So are bluefish, who lurk in the shadows just beyond the brilliant pool of light.

A floating rig is employed for surfacing blues. The rig consists of the same brown hook and wire leader that is used on the bottom, but in this case it is tied directly to the fishing line with an improved or standard clinch knot. Some fishermen add a tiny clinch sinker a foot or two above the hook. Strip baits, butterfish, sand eels, spearing, smelt or tinker mackerel, are employed on top, as on the bottom. I once saw an experienced bluefish angler at Montauk catch tinker mackerel at the dock. He kept them alive during the trip out, by changing the water periodically in his large vat. Live-lining two tinkers at a time that full moon night, he was high hook with blues up to 18 pounds. Not every Montauk blue is taken on the bottom.

Certainly not in the West End, where most fishermen favor drifting baits to bottom hugging baits. However, it takes awhile for the light rig to reach its destination, about 75 to 150 feet out. In fact, at first the bait hardly seems to move at all. But soon the current takes hold and carries the bait to the shadow line. Suddenly the line races furiously, but the angler's educated thumb prevents an override on the revolving spool. It's a marvelous feeling to catch a blue this way; the anglers feels the blue taking line, sets the hook and gains a bonus as the distant blue showers the surface with silver spray. Having determined how far away that blue was, the angler eliminates guessing by marking his line with a piece of tape, a rubber band, or an indelible marker.

Occasionally at Montauk and on the West End, blues take to midwater depths. These fish are usually encountered by bottom fishermen who suddenly feel their lines going slack on the way down. Experienced anglers instantly engage their reels and begin cranking furiously, for these fish can move toward the boat quicker than a high-speed reel.

Regardless of whether one fishes for blues at night on the East or West End, on top or on bottom, heavy conventional tackle is required. Leave the spinning gear home and bring a stout 8 foot boat rod matched with a reel of about 3/0 size. West Enders use 40 pound test for 5 to 12 pound blues; Montauk's fishermen often go heavier, with 50 pound test, as well as an 80 pound test shocker, against their teen-sized blues. At night, slow retrieve reels, such as the Penn 65, are just as effective as the Penn Jigmaster or the Daiwa 50H, since the fishing is performed mostly with bait.

And when fishing with bait, there are always a number of items to check. The first, of course, is to keep the hook point razor sharp, since neither bait nor blue will be moving rapidly. Likewise, after baiting up, the point and barb should be checked for fish scales, especially when using bunker, herring or mullet. One scale on the barb is like oil on the reel: it's all a blue needs to slip away. A proper drag setting on the reel, below the line's breaking point, is essential as well, both to a solid hook-up and a solid catch. Indeed, properly setting a baited hook is more difficult than setting a hook on a lure. A diamond jig moves so fast, the bluefish practically sets the hook itself. On the other hand, a blue often toys with bait, nibbles and pecks at it like a cat cornering a mouse, and the angler who overreacts loses his fish. In such a case, the best thing to do is nothing at all; simply hold the rod still and wait till the fish takes the bait in earnest. It takes some experience to learn the difference between what I call a "soft weight" and a "heavyweight" on the line. A soft weight doesn't bend the rod forcefully; it feels sluggish, because the blue is merely mouthing the bait and hanging on for a free ride. A heavy weight is accompanied by several solid jolts, and this is the time to set the hook solidly.

Having firmly set the hook, by no means is the nighttime angler assured of his catch. Especially when drifting bait on the surface, it is imperative to move with the fish and avoid a tangle. If your blue is in the outfield, above and beyond your neighbor's line, pass your rod over his; if the fish is playing infield, stoop down and let your neighbor pass his rod over yours. At night, moreover, blues often take to the air after taking the bait on top, and the angler should guide the fish to a safe landing by lowering his rod while taking in the slack. With its head in the water, the blue cannot spit out the hook. Similarly, the blue, with its head in the water, will not escape before the mate gaffs it.

Nighttime bluefishing, fascinating and challenging, is available throughout the summer on both ends of the Island. On the ride out, a magnificent sunset is a signal that the show will soon begin. When darkness descends a little later, luminous baitfish put on a magnificent light show. The grand finale, however, is the hottest kind of bluefishing on a cool summer night.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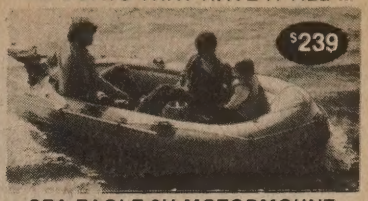


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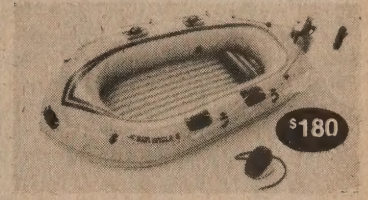


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# WEAKFISH:
# MONTAUK STYLE

## by Capt. John DeMaio

**This Montauk skipper has ideas on how to score with East End weaks.**

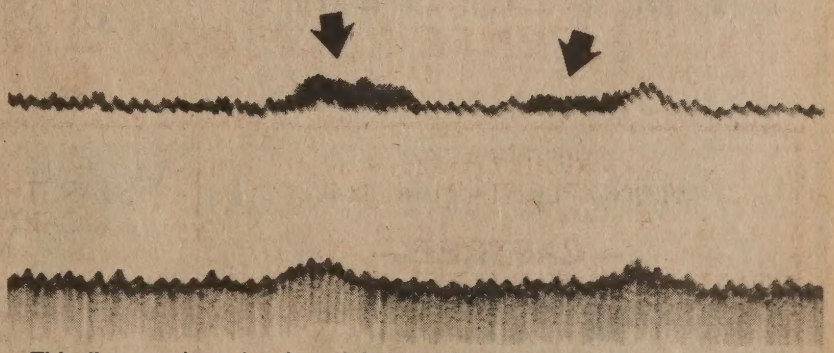
Most anglers associate shallow water bay areas with weakfish (with the exception of the New York Bight area). Slow moving tides and huge schools of fish must make the weakfish an easy mark. I use the words "must," and "easy" because I have never caught a weakfish anywhere but Montauk. My opinion is formed by listening to my customers who tell glowing stories of heavy weakfish scores. Judging by the stories I hear, and performances I see, I can only assume that weakfish are difficult to catch at Montauk. These strong tides are what defeat most novices at Montauk. With knowledge and experience, the tides can be put to work in your favor. Conventional tackle and proper boat control are the basics for success. A knowledge of where to fish and how to work your lure correctly are equally as important. Combine all these ingredients together, boat control, area, tackle lure usage, and you're a winner at "stemming the tide" and diamond jigging. I clarify the method of fishing because Montauk offers the other accepted means of pursuing weaks, such as casting and trolling. But I will not stray into these areas; rather I'll dwell only on stemming.

For those who may not be familiar with the term, stemming the tide is the practice of placing a boat into the tide while in gear at a low RPM. When this maneuver is properly executed, the boat will maintain an anchored-like position over a desired area. Why not just anchor? For a number of reasons, all noteworthy, but none more so than the fact that the stemming trick will work better on the fish than actually being anchored. Many subtle changes occur in your lure action when you stem. So much so that your particular boat style and how it behaves in the water can dictate how well you catch.

Let me elaborate on style by using my boat as an example. I have a 30 foot glass lobster hull that has a three foot keel which goes the length of the boat. This long-running, deep keel enables me to lay into a tide helping to maintain position. The only other style boat that would be better for this fishing would be twin engines. Well designed twin engine boats go around like they're on railroad tracks. Not that either of these configurations are a must. I have seen days when small outboard jobs would outfish me badly. Obviously, the behavior of the boat affected the worked lures in such a manner that is resulted in the fish jumping on it. I might add that this can happen mostly when bass fishing. Not so much with the weakies! More often than not, perfect boat control is crucial to allow you to hang over a

(Continued on next page.)

**The author, a veteran Montauk charter skipper, shows a jig-caught tiderunner.**



**This diagram shows just how tight to the bottom the weakfish can get and still be recorded. Many anglers are not aware that this slight thickening of the BOTTOM LINE indicates a concentration of weakies. The readout is from a Si-Tex white line recorder.**

school of fish long enough for the fish to bite.

For an engine, I have a three cylinder diesel in my boat. Like all engine applications, it has its good and bad points. Its best asset being the ability to idle down in gear at the 450 RPMs and still give a smooth performance without vibration. At this low RPM I can, and often do, end up going backwards in a strong tide. This creates a lure action that can be devastating on the fish.

At this point, I find it necessary to mention the lure. My basic weapon is the Diamond jig. The jig is free spooled off the stern and stopped the instant it touches the bottom. What happens next is what makes a fisherman. Any combination of conventional reel manipulation such as how many turns after you bounce the bottom. How fast also, and how long a pause will affect the lure. The angler who can FEEL the change in the lure action will do best. The size diamond jig you use is determined by the bait and how much weight you need to FEEL the jig bounce the bottom.

Since most of the bait nowadays is sand eels, I have been placing a tube lure on the end of the jig. (Remember, diamond jigs do not imitate sand eels, tubes do.)

Variations in jig size can affect performance. When stemming I find the flat look of Ava jigs work better. The broad surface of the jig catches more tide and permits the lure to hang over the bottom a wee bit longer. Even though I can make tubes cheaper than buying them, I use Sekora tubes. The number 40 to be exact. Not only does this tube have a thin wall for lighter weight, but it also has the best tube hook in the business. Extremely strong and lightweight. The thin latex and the light hook results in a tube that can spin in a breeze. I will explain why this is important by getting back to the stemming.

Okay, let's create the entire picture. You have located the fish. The boat is placed into the tide, you idle down, and are now in a stemming character **over** the fish. The weakfish are hard to the bottom and your lure must stay directly over the bottom. You cannot rapidly retrieve your lure to create the action needed. Not only won't the weakies come off the bottom, but they will not hit a fast moving lure. (What follows, reader, is the core of this article and worth taking note of.) After your lure has bounced and you have stopped it, take no more than three turns and let the lure hang there. The flat jig slows the lure from settling back to the bottom too quickly and the lightweight tube can spin from just the force of the tide. With the flash of the jig, and the spin of tube amongst their midst the weakfish cannot resist that tantalizing tease. Still they will not slam into that lure. Instead, they will take it in slowly and so softly many a bite can go unnoticed by the beginner at this fishing.

Getting back to boat control, you can begin to appreciate the importance of hanging over the fish for awhile. Several seconds can often pass after your lure has hit the bottom before the "squeaker" will be coaxed into biting. Often after a couple of fast turns, a very slow turning of the handle may be needed to keep the appropriate action going at the lure. (This often occurs when the tide has diminished and is not running hard enough to spin the tube.) Accomplishing these little "tricks" are a difficult task without the aid of stern controls.

When the fishing is "hot," every angler on board can hook up as long as the boat stays **over** the fish. This includes the boat operator also. With the tiller bar between his legs he can reel in a fish and still steer. When fishing with several people and everyone is retrieving a fish, the operator may have to move away from the tiller bar because of crossed lines or maybe to gaff a fish. Still a slight push or a little hip action can help maintain the boat. Unlike Teleflex or hydraulic where steering ratios of 3-to-1 or more are used (my boat is 6-to-1), the tiller bar is **direct** to the rudder. The feeling is like going from power steering to rack and pinion.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When idled down into the tide at a low RPM you can only guess at what position your rudder is in. Because of the very slow headway being made through the water your helm response is sluggish. You tend to under, or over steer. Even from my forward station I know my rudder position by the position of my tiller bar.

Montauk weakfishing is often a matter of hit and run. Twenty minutes into a school of feeding fish is all you may get before they move and you must find them again. Making the most of things when the opportunity arises can make or break a day. (Anyone on my boat who picks up a sandwich in the middle of a weakfish blitz is looking for trouble.) You may only be able to get your lines into the fish just once before they vacate the premises. If you can hover over the fish long enough for all the lines to look appealing everyone can hook up including the guy running the boat.

Perhaps the most wonderful thing about fishing is that it always changes and you never stop discovering. Such was the case last season with the weakies. From the beginning, my ability to produce weaks with some amount of regularity was terrific. In short I was "hot." It was not until the end of the season that my swelled head began to realize that it wasn't only my skill and ability that proved successful. The boat was largely responsible. Because my boat could idle down so low in gear, I would actually go backwards when stemming. Not only in strong tides, but moderate ones also. This slow dropping back of the boat proved the downfall of the squeakers. The fact that the boat played an important role became evident when I would be alongside some excellent fishermen who were making the same maneuvers with their boats and still I and my party would outfish them. Not always, of course, I've had my days as a spectator, too.

Before closing I want to explain my style of operating a charter boat. For one, I don't use a mate. Also, I like to fish. My being able to fish is essential to catching fish particularly when stemming. I can feel out the boat's performance and make the adjustments required to help make the fish bite. By being at the stern I can explain to my party how to work the lure for a given situation and watch to see how it is executed. (In my first year chartering I had no tiller and was forced to look at the backs of my anglers while I had to control the boat from the forward station. Production improved when I got in the middle of the action. I can hook fish, gaff fish, pass rods around, take out tangles, change lures, bark out instructions, steer the boat, make RPM adjustments and never leave the stern. And I owe much of it to stern controls.

That wraps it up. Don't for a minute think that all you need are stern controls and you can put the hurt on the fish. Hell, no! But it's a step in the right direction.


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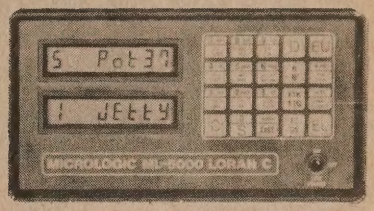


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# DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE

## by Gregory A. Ventura

### Tandem lures can add to your canyon catches.

July of 1978 was my first introduction to dragging high speed artificials in the deep waters off of New York's coast. Since that time I have spent many wonderful hours of catching—and sometimes not catching—pelagic game fish.

My indoctrination to offshore lures consisted of the famous Psychobead commonly referred to as the Green Machine. You could not read a local article written on canyon fishing without hearing of the spectacular catches made on these lures. Needless to say I ran out and purchased my fair share of these lures. With every excursion out to the deep I would set my pattern up and wait for a response. The response to these lures on occasion did not always bring the glory calls we so often read about. What was I to do?

Well, one evening I was discussing offshore tactics with Ron Bierman and described to him the lacklustre trip I had recently made. Ron showed me a rig I had heard of, but had never tried.

The rig consisted of a Sevenstrand Head #1130 which is basically a very large Psychobead head. However, this was not the only head on the rig. I noticed approximately two feet up from the first head was the smaller version: there were two heads on one rig.

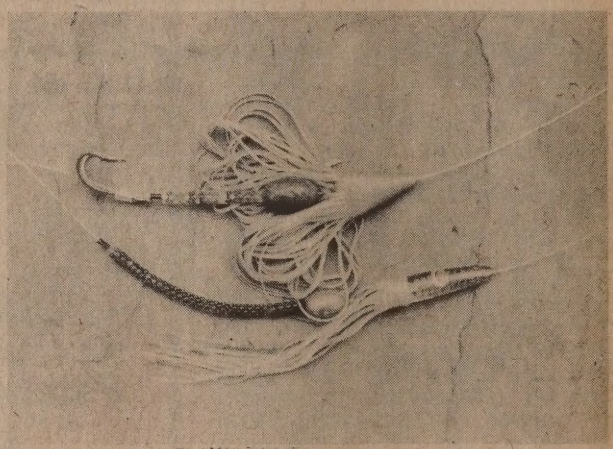
Now, bear in mind, buying one offshore lure was expensive enough, but two on one rig? I explained to Ron my monetary position did not lend itself to such extravagance and he quickly put it into perspective. He basically said if you are going that far out and spending that much money on gas, why not give it a shot? Well, I did, and I did get results.

What I'm sure many of you are saying is that all I tried was a daisy chain. You are absolutely right! We've all probably read an article on how they rig up mackerel in this fashion and troll for giant tuna this way. Some of you probably remember catching school bluefin with plastic squid rigged like that, but the vast majority of us never stopped to think of trying it offshore. Well, you snoose, you lose—and I can tell you from experience a lot of us have been losing.

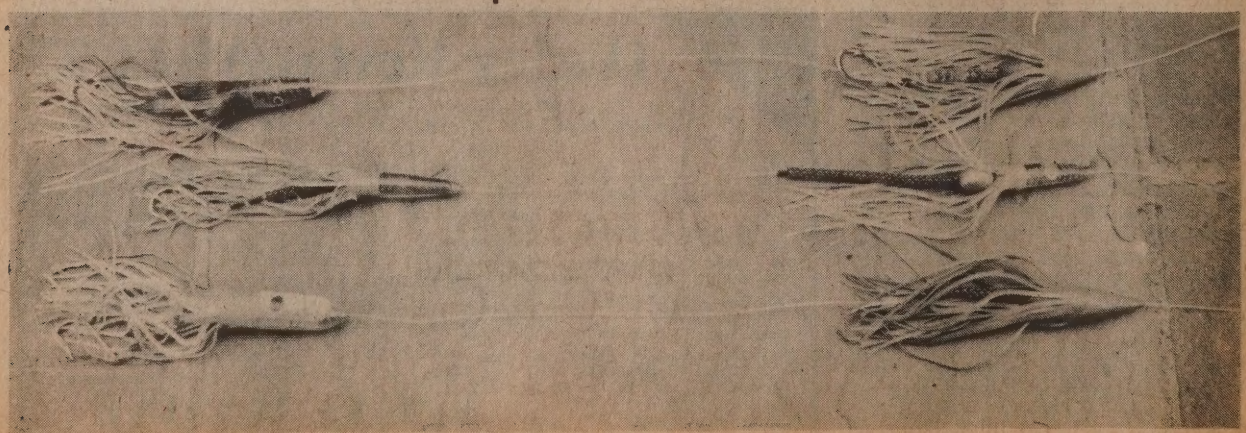
I now have in excess of 100 offshore rigs and I'm not stretching the truth by saying at least half are doubles. I firmly believe in them.

Assuming that most of you already know how to put together a rig, let's

The basic components include lure heads, leader, crimps, beads and hooks.



Six ounce egg sinkers help keep forward lure in the water, not flying out of the wake.



A trio of deadly tandem lures.

move right on to the second lure and its rigging.

Once you have assembled your initial lure, roughly two to three feet from it place a small crimp just wide enough to permit the leader to pass through. Now that the crimp is in place, secure it to your leader. With the crimp now in place string your tri-beads for color and placing and slide on your second lure.

It is my personal belief that the larger Big Eye and Yellowfin tunas prefer a lure trolled somewhat deeper than the conventional heads. By deeper I'm not saying 20 feet, but more to the tune of six inches to a foot and a half. Sounds crazy, but did you ever notice how many big tuna are taken on large Jet head. They do weigh a little more than the Green Machine heads, now don't they?

All you have to do is either place a four, six or eight ounce egg sinker in the first head of the teaser and you will notice very good results. Keep in mind that sinker size should be in direct relationship to the type of lure size and head shape you are using.

Instead of a crimp holding the next rig in place, let's try a hook. Hook sizes should once again be in direct relationship to lure size. I happen to rig my Psychobead series 1100 heads with 9/0 hooks and the larger series 1130 heads with at least a 10/0. By simply snelling a hook into the forward teaser you will hook up with those fish that take a swipe at the forward head. Let me warn you right up front, expect to lose one or two of these rigs. Two good sized tuna pulling in opposite directions of each other will play hell with your tackle and your back. I think the end result does justify the loss of one or two rigs a season.

How about saving some money on that forward teaser? Skirts are a lot cheaper than buying two heads. Rig the skirts up the same way as you would a straight head; however, you must weight each skirt with an egg sinker. This will prevent the teaser from pulling out of the wake. On a Green Machine I would recommend a six ounce sinker inside the skirt head.

You do not have to use skirts or the same head either. You can vary the theme with feathers, tuna brooms, minnow clones and the like.

I have rigged with great success everything from Psychobeads in all colors, Boone Sundancers in Jets or Konas and a whole gamut of other offshore heads.

The problem I believe we all get into is playing follow the leader. We were told Green Machines produce and without a doubt they do, but their real name is Psychobead and they come in a variety of colors which at any given time will probably produce as good as any. I guess what I'm trying to get across is that when we get those slow days offshore that's when a little experimenting pays off.

So double your pleasure and double your fun. 'Ya know, I think I heard that saying some place before.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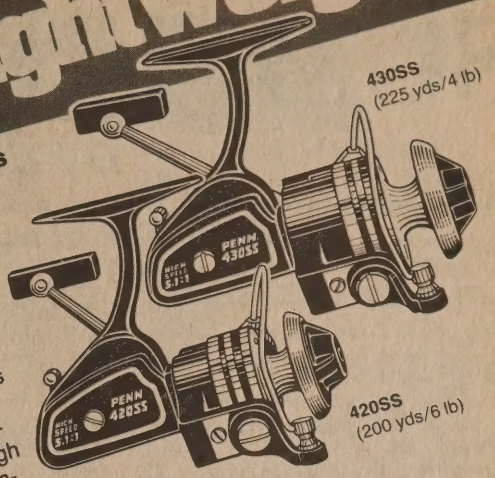


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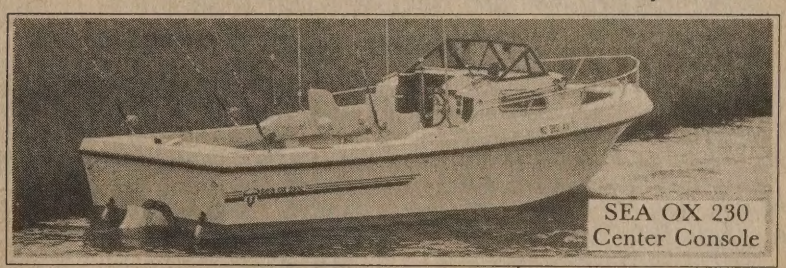


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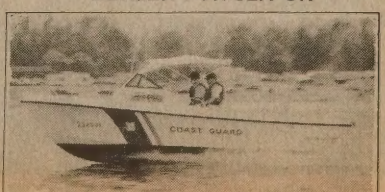

# STEP SOFTLY FOR SUMMER STRIPERS

*by Jason Colby*

**In the dark of night, dedicated surfmen move "slow and easy" in search of trophy stripers.**

It was about 2AM and very dark on that moonless July night. I was standing waist deep about 100 yards from shore, miles from anywhere, on the edge of a deep "back bay" channel.

"Anything happening?" came the voice from behind me and taking me quite by surprise. "No, nothing at all!" I said, while forcing my stringer under my foot so I could keep the 44 pound bass on the bottom and out of sight.

"What are you fishing for?" was the next "dumb" question.

"Bluefish" I said.

"With a rigged eel?" asked the stranger with a little humor in his voice. At this point, it looked like I was kinda "caught in the act" and I wasn't going to get rid of this guy by normal antics.

"Well,...yes" I continued my act, "but it's really dead out here, so I'm gonna pack it in." And with that, I turned to shore and deftly wrapped my stringer around my ankle with a smooth twist of my foot, took one step, and fell flat on my face! The water was amazingly cold for July, but that's not why my face was red when the stranger helped me to my feet.

With the big bass now trailing neatly from my belt on the surface, I knew my "secret spot" was no longer a secret. So with a quick change of acts, I was now friendly and informative; telling the man about the few fish I had been catching in this spot. I also told him the best tides and lures/baits and I finished off my speech with a bit about the "best part." That being that he and I were the only ones who knew about this spot and how important it was to keep it that way.

With all that said and done, it was easy (maybe too easy) to get a promise from him that he would never tell anyone about this spot. As long as I would shut up and let him fish (as it turns out, he wasn't listening very well anyway), I'm sure he would have promised almost anything I asked!

Considering it had been over two hours since I had caught the fish and I hadn't seen any bait move through since then either (not to mention I was soaked and the tide was about to go dead anyway), I really did go home that night.

The following night when I arrived at my spot, I found the stranger's car parked in my place. I didn't get too upset, though, until I saw three(!) men fishing from the channel's edge. The stranger turned when he heard me coming (I intentionally wasn't being quiet) and met me 50 feet inshore of his companions. He apologized first about breaking his promise and then he explained how his son and his brother-in-law wouldn't get off his back until he agreed to take them "just once."

Moving back to Act I, Phase II, I told him it was okay, and he and his family could fish there all they liked, but I thought it was a waste of time. The fish had probably left this area until next year at least.

What I had told the man the night before contained the most valuable

**The author leaves a favorite back bay area at dawn with a big striper in tow.**

lesson for eventual success I could ever tell anyone in regards to summer bass fishing. Quiet! As important as being in a good location or using the right bait, being as quiet as possible is absolutely necessary during the summer months.

What I mean by quiet has nothing to do with talking, as a matter of fact, you can talk your head off for all the fish care! What I mean is shifting from place to place—or if the fish are very close, from foot to foot. Unnecessary sloshing about when you unwind an unnecessarily powerful cast; backlashing (conventional tackle), so your cast hits the water like a rock, etc.

Now picture a small pod of big bass—well fed (there's plenty of variety around), settled, leisurely, not spending much energy and certainly not desperate. They're swimming along a channel, following a large school of bunker. Not chasing them, mind you, but keeping about a quarter mile behind. A live eel passes overhead. Nothing to be afraid of, such an easy target. One less bass in the group.

If the fish wasn't so big and the fisherman was quicker at getting the fish in and hence another live eel into the water, he probably would have caught another fish. Perhaps some more bass will pass by later.

A short while and a couple of miles down the channel, is a small "pod" of fishermen. The bunker are moving past, maybe a bass took one a little while before, so the splash was heard from the distance.

Regardless, these fishermen are excited! They're casting frequently, allowing their lures to "splash" instead of "splat" and they're shifting about (changing lures and cast angles). The bass approach and hear/feel the unnatural disturbances, they see the unnatural baits. "Why feed now? We are in no hurry!"

To find a "secret" spot of your own you will have to work a little. I always start with one of those inshore waterway maps (Rockaway to Shinnecock for Long Island's south shore) available at most marine hardware stores. I try to locate a place where the channel is not too far from shore and where I don't have to cross 10 miles of (mosquito infested) marsh to get to.

Visit several places (on your map) during the night and then scatter your visits so you get a different tide in each place over the next few nights until you find out what tide produces where. You might find that a body of fish pass "your" spot at a certain time of the tide every night throughout the summer.

Oh! About "my" spot. I went back about a week later and as I figured, the "stranger" and his "family" probably didn't catch any fish because they were discouraged enough not to come back for the rest of the summer. However, by the results of that night, it was easy to see that they shouldn't have been discouraged by a lack of fish!


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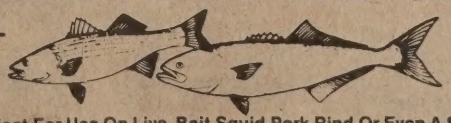

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# WARM UP TO BAY WEAKS

by Tom Schlichter

**Great South Bay, long noted for its spring tiderunners, provides weakfish action of a different sort during the dog days of summer.**

It's common knowledge, in our waters, that for outsized weaks the spring season is tops. As the spring fish begin to depart sometime in June, the attention of most anglers quickly diverts to other species. Of course, a few sharpies continue to pull tiderunners from the south shore inlets all summer long, but this fishing is limited to a few well informed, knowledgeable experts. For those of you who wish the weakfish run would continue in force, despair not. It does. However, the fish are generally much smaller than their spring brethren and the methods of capture differ somewhat from those of springtime.

About the second week of July, small Great South Bay weaks, in the one to three pound class, take up residence at mid-bay. Here they spend the remainder of summer foraging for spearing, small snappers, crustaceans and mollusks. Morning and evenings, some of these fish will invade the flats to feed, giving the shore-bound angler a shot, but the majority of fish will remain at mid-bay in eight to twelve feet of water. Thus, the better weakfish scores are made from boats.

As I've already mentioned, these summer run fish are much smaller than their spring brothers. A four pound weak is large for these waters in the summertime. Most fish will average between 1 and 2½ pounds. In order to enjoy these fish to the fullest, it is necessary to scale down the tackle used from that of springtime.

Since the waters fished are not very deep and mid-bay currents not particularly strong, my tackle preference leans toward medium lightweight outfits. Sturdy freshwater bass rigs are ideal for school weaks. A light, fast tapered 6 to 6½ foot rod, coupled with a light spinning reel, will fill the bill. If you prefer, conventional tackle may be used. Load your reel with high quality 6 to 12 pound test mono, and you're ready to go.

Virtually any fishing method you can think of will, at times, catch school weaks. They are often caught accidently by fluke or snapper fishermen from pier, shore or boat. Spin-

**Light spinning or baitcasting tackle is the only way to take these 1-3 pound scrappers.**

casting and fly fishing occasionally produce fish but, for consistent results, the time honored means of drifting and still-fishing seem to work best. Personally, I've found anchoring up and still-fishing to be the most productive.

Still-fishing for weaks allows you a variety of options, as far as choice of bait, rigging and tackle are concerned, while still being fairly simplistic. In the bait department, squid strips, spearing, sand worms and strips of snapper all produce. I usually opt for the squid as it is less messy than snapper strips, stays on the hook better than spearing and is much less expensive than sand worms.

Each of these baits is best presented on a high-low rig.

High-low rigs are not difficult to construct. Using a dropper loop, tie in a pre-snelled weakfish hook 2½ to 3 feet above your sinker. The bottom hook should be placed about 4 inches above the sinker, again using a dropper loop. Hook choice is a matter of personal preference. I like size 1/0 and 2/0 Eagle Claws but most fishermen choose Sproats. Keep in mind that the odds of encountering large weaks are slim, so there is little need for outsized hooks. Sinker selection presents no problem. Most times a one to two ounce bank sinker is sufficient to hold bottom.

School weaks will most likely be found holding along the edges of channels, so these are the logical places to anchor up. Pull your craft upwind of the area you intend to fish and quietly lower your anchor over the side—do not throw your anchor over as this is likely to spook the fish. If you can obtain it, a little clam or bunker chum will help draw the fish toward your boat, but this is not always necessary. It is important to anchor over hard bottom sand, as fishing in muddy waters is normally poor. If you can anchor in the slick of a tong (clam) boat, your chances for success will be much improved.

School weaks strike a bait in one of two ways. They either smash it and hook themselves or tap it several times before taking solidly. If you feel taps, wait until they become strong before setting the hook. Be sure your drag is properly set and take your time playing the fish. Small weaks give a good account of themselves on light tackle and should be enjoyed to the fullest.

Drifting for school weaks has not proven as productive for me as anchoring, but it warrants mention as there are a fair number of fishermen who swear by the method. Fishing in the same general locations as you might anchor, light to medium light tackle of either spin or conventional mode is employed to impart life into any one of a slew of plastic grubs or worm-like lures. Small sized jellyworms, Salty Dogs and Mr. Twisters are probably the most popular artificials for drifting, although towards the end of last summer, Tiger Tails became increasingly popular.

Basically, drifting for summer weaks is done the same as in spring. However, the tackle used is normally on the lighter side. Position your boat upwind of where you expect to connect with the fish, lower your line over the side and begin to drift. With most grubs and worms, a low rod lift should be used to impart life to your lure—no fast jerking action. The idea is to imitate a shrimp or worm and neither of these creatures swim with a fast, erratic motion. Lifts, causing the tip of your rod to move 6 to 12 inches, work the best. To emphasize how little action is necessary, witness the fact that most sharpies fish one "dead stick" and many claim they catch more fish on that rod than the one they hold in their hand.

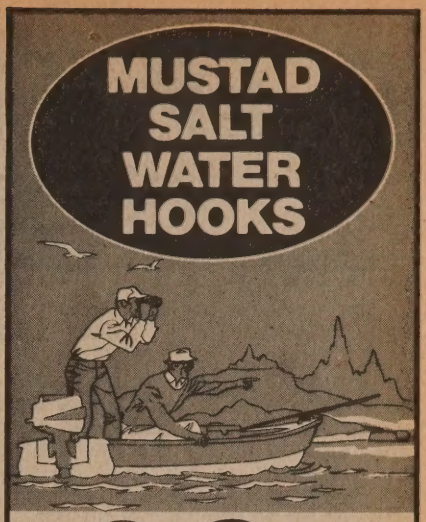
Oftentimes, if still-fishing is slow, I will resort to drifting until I find the fish. Once I've located the weaks, however, I tend to anchor over them. Both methods will produce on either incoming or outgoing tide so long as the current is in motion. Time of day is more important than tide with morning far out-producing afternoon and evening tides.

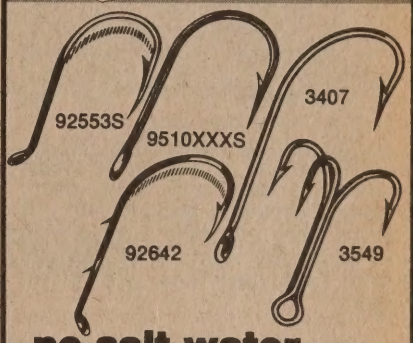
Once again, most of these fish are small by spring standards. However, an occasional 5 to 8 pound fish might show up. Remember to bring a net in case any of these larger fish are around. Any fish over two pounds should be netted as their frail mouths have a tendency to tear when they are pulled from the water unaided. The name weakfish, after all, refers to the strength of this species mouth, not their fighting ability. These fish, by the way, are perfect for introducing young ones to the habits of game fish. After all, a two pound weak is a great thrill to a 10-year-old who has caught nothing but flounder and snappers.

The last two summers, good concentrations of weakfish have shown in the deeper waters off Sayville, Heckscher, Cherry Grove, Bay Shore and Smith Point. It's a good bet that weakfish will show in the same locations again this summer. For those without boats, rental skiffs are available to reach all of the above named locations. Local tackle shops are the best source of information on the whereabouts of the latest action.

On occasion, you will be pleasantly surprised by species other than weaks. That's the beauty of bottom fishing. Incidental catches most commonly include blowfish, kingfish, snapper blues and blue claw crabs. Presently, weakfish seem to be in the midst of a heavy population decline. So keep conservation in mind and release all those fish which you do not intend to eat. Don't forget to return all weaks that measure less than 12 inches from snout to tail fork.

School weaks have a cleaner, less gamey taste than their spring brothers. Baked, broiled or fried, I'm sure you'll be pleasantly surprised a the palate pleasing taste of these feisty junior-weights. So this summer, when the spring run is over, remember the season continues at mid-bay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# DEEP TROLLING BLUES

## PART ONE — PLANERS

*by Pete Barrett*

We all dream of days when the blues are crashing baitfish right on top of the water and we can catch them on light spinning tackle. The reality of day to day fishing, however, shows that the blues will usually prefer the deeper water to be found at offshore structure like ridges, sloughs, holes, banks and shoals. To catch them with consistency you have to go deep to get the lures where the fish live, not where you wish they were.

In this first of a three-part series, we'll take a look at one of the oldest methods to take lures down deep: planers. Despite the ancient history of planers, they still take a lot of fish and under the right conditions will outfish both wire line and downriggers.

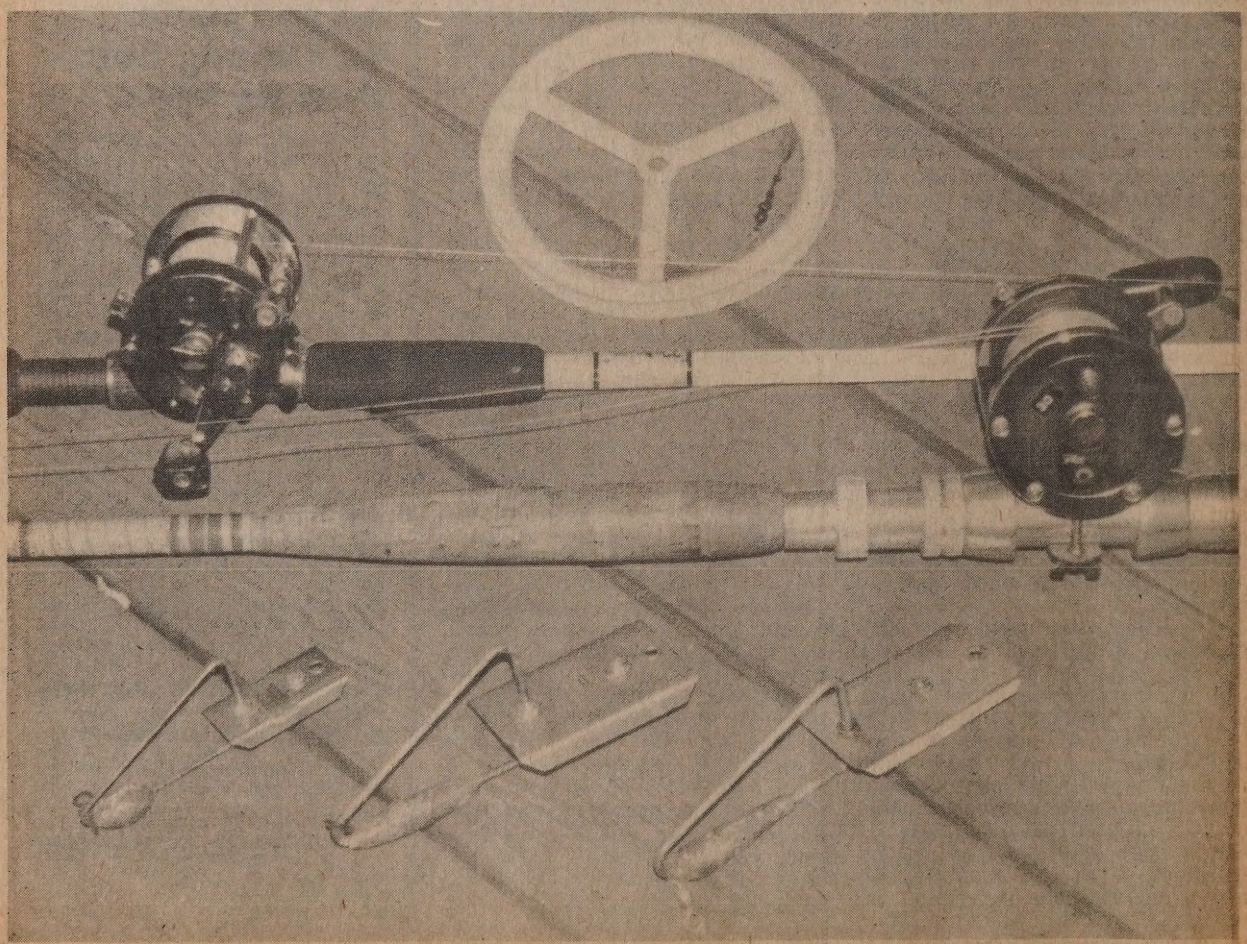
Planers work best when they can be used over deep water where variations in the bottom structure are far below the surface.

Probably the most convincing evidence of the effectiveness of planers is the popularity of this method with commercial handliners at Montauk and in parts of New England. They are used not only for blues, but for bass, pollock and weakfish as well.

Bluefish will often hold in the mid to upper layer of water, regardless of the total water depth. Whether the water is 90 feet or 150 feet deep, they are often marked on a graph recorder at 20 to 50 feet below the surface. Depending on the size of the planer you use, this is the ideal range for this deep trolling method.

Planers are made in several sizes and by several manufacturers. Two local brands are the Great Bay Planer and the Offshore Planer. They come in sizes numbered from 0 to 5; the larger the number, the larger the planer. Usually the larger planers will dive deepr than the smaller versions.

The only accurate way to tell exactly how deep your planers are diving is to run your boat at trolling speed directly at the beach and watch the rod tip and your recorder. The recorder will tell you at what depth the planer hit bottom to trip, causing the rod tip to straighten. As a general guide, the number 3 and 4 planers will dive to a depth of about 30 feet. I frequently use the small number 00



**20 to 30 pound tackle is usual for planers. Great Bay Planers in size 00 and #3 are left and center; offshore Planer is on right.**

planers and they dive to about 20 feet.

Within limits, a faster trolling speed will cause the planer to dive deeper, while a slow speed will not make it dig so deeply. Trolling speeds for bluefish are typically around 1000 to 1300 RPMs for bluefish in an outboard boat.

Leader length from the planer to the lure will vary depending on your preference. I use a standard leader length of 50 feet with the #3 planers and 35 feet with the 00 size. Checking with charter Captain Dave Bramhall on the MIMI, I found that Dave uses 50 feet for #4 planers and 35 feet for #2 and 3 sizes.

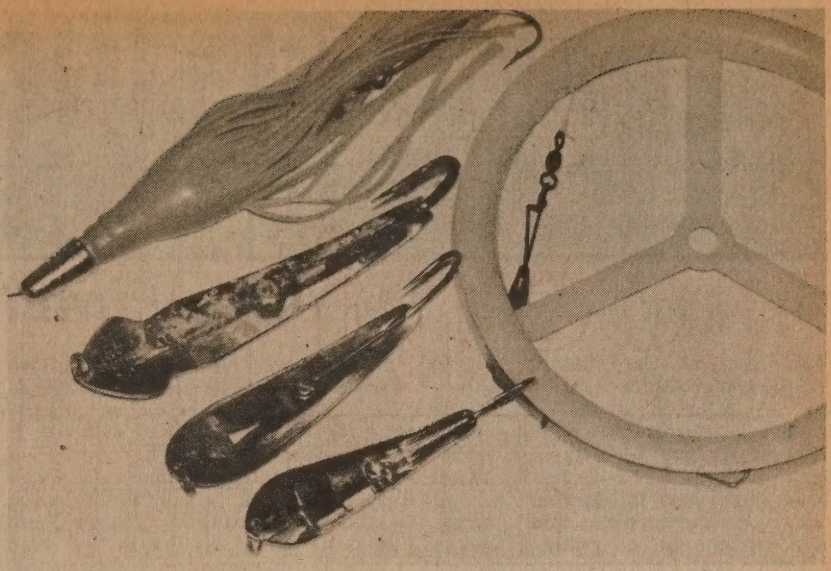
The leaders are made from 40, 50 or 60 pound test clear Ande mono and have a large snap swivel at each end to quickly attach the leaders to the planer itself and to the lure. I find it easy to store the leaders on the wheels sold in most tackle shops for this purpose. Since I usually fish only two planers at a time, I have two leaders stored back to back to be used on the planers that day, while another wheel has two more leaders ready as spares. I don't know of any charter captain who uses wire at the end of the mono leader and it is rare to lose a lure from a cut-off. Most blues will hit the lure right at the tail end, and with a tight line there is minimal chance that the razor teeth will touch the leader.

As with trolling speed, the amount of line you pay out from the reel will also determine how deep the planer goes. I've fished them with as little as 50 feet of line, but more frequently use 150 to 200 feet. The line can be marked with a rubber band, a magic marker or you can splice in a blood knot to show the exact depth. I use the blood knot technique and have a pair of trolling reels that are used exclusively for planers. There is a knot in each line at 150 feet and another blood knot at 200 feet. The knot is virtually as strong as the line itself and at 20 pound test I doubt if a bluefish would ever break it.

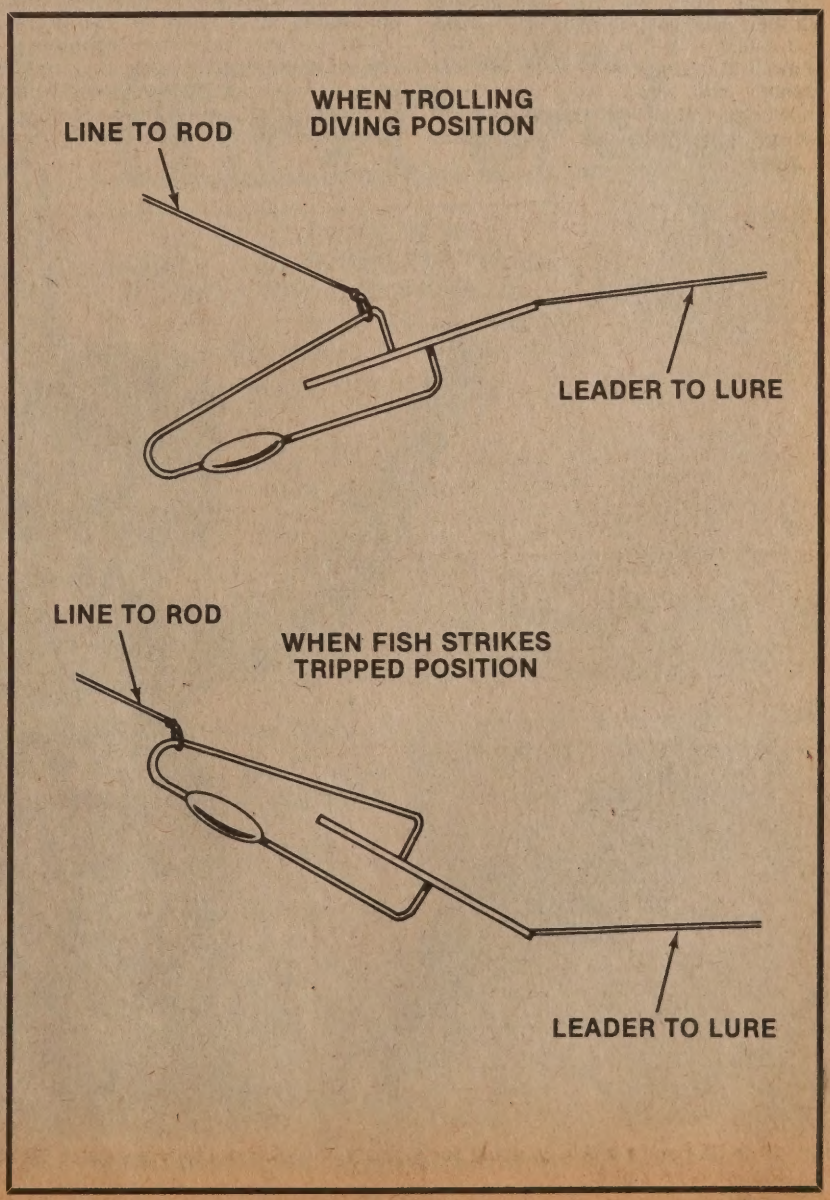
If you use larger planers, say the #4 size, you will need stouter tackle than the 20 pound class stuff I use. The planers place a lot of strain on the rod and a trolling rod rated as a 30 pound class action will be better. Reels like the Daiwa 30H or 50H, Penn 112H and 113H and the Ryobi conventional series will perform well.

The most often used lures with planers are nylons and Hoochie type lures, single tubes and spoons. You can also use plugs, umbrella rigs, jointed tubes and bucktails.

The beauty of planers is their simplicity. There is no tricky wire to handle, no extra equipment like with downriggers. The drawback is the strain the planers place on the tackle and how they dull the fight of small fish. Make no mistake about it, however, planers are one of the deadliest ways to take a lure down to the dining room of big bluefish. They catch the heck out of blues, and that's why they've been around for so long.



**Lures like Spider Sea Serpent, Acetta, Hopkins and Reflecto are prime bluefish lures.**



# PORT JEFF WEAKS & BLUES

## by Wally Powell

The time of the season for the invasion of weakfish and bluefish off of Port Jefferson is hopefully soon to begin. Hopefully it will materialize and be a successful season as it was last year. Being that the mackerel fishing this year in this area was what you could call terrible, due to whatever reasons and I attribute it to the weather, water conditions and lack of bait. I am keeping my fingers crossed now that it looks like the weather has changed, that we will experience another excellent season for weaks and blues. I'd like to mention that being that the mackerel were late this season and there were no great showings of sand eels, that this year's fishing will be two or three weeks later than last year's. My log book indicated last year, as of the middle of June to July, is when we scored heavily with both weaks and blues. It will be later this season.

The main concentration of these fish were off of Port Jefferson to the east of can 2, in the Mt. Misery Shoal area. As noted on my Si-tex chart recording, the big hump in this shoal area was heavily populated with bait, primarily sand eels. These sand eels seem to congregate in this area and get locked in because of the strong water currents and tide movement. The sand eels stay close to this hump because I guess it offers some kind of protection from the strong currents. It is here the larger fish (weaks and blues) hang around and pick off the bait with relative ease and as long as there is an abundance of bait, there will be an abundance of weaks and blues waiting for the free feed.

It was in this area last year and hopefully this year, that weaks from 5 to 12 pounds were abundant. The blues in this area were of the smaller variety of two to four pounds. The technique used to nail these fish was drifting over this area and jigging. We also tried trolling in this area with wire lines and umbrella rigs with minimal results and those results were strictly all blues. This method was not really productive, due to heavy boat traffic when the fish were in and trolling just led to headaches

**Drifting and jigging is the most effective approach for Port Jeff weaks.**

with the other boats. So with the weaks being the number one target, drifting and jigging was the only productive way to go.

The equipment we used here was Penn Jigmasters and light spinning outfits on appropriate rods, all equipped with 20 pound test mono. The jigs we used, and I recommend because they really produced, were three ounce Bridgeport Diamond Jigs and three ounce M&M Sand Eel Jigs. Although when the fish were biting and they did just that, just about any jig properly used would produce. Our most productive results came with the above mentioned jigs.

Before explaining our technique for nailing these fish, I'd like to mention a few things I have noticed, as have others who read and write for this publication. When the blues are around, the weakfish always seem to be beneath these furious eating machines. I don't know for sure why this seems to be, but I have a couple of theories. Blues are a rather fast moving fish, gobbling up anything in their path. It's eat, until they regurgitate and start all over again. Perhaps when the weaks are in the same area as the blues, they stay beneath the blues and gobble up the remnants that the blues have left and they don't have to do fish combat with the blues for their lunch. My second theory is that weakfish seem to be more docile than the active blues and perhaps they just like to steer clear of them when they are in a feeding frenzy. As I said, just a few of my theories. Who knows?

The key to jigging up weaks is to drop your jig to the bottom. When you hit bottom, take a crank or two and work the rod in a straight up and down manner. Often when the jig hits the bottom, the weaks will hit it immediately. If not, after you have lifted your rod and jig and you are letting it down, the fluttering motion of the jig on the way down, stirs up quite a few bits because the fluttering of the jig is perceived as a wounded baitfish and—whammo. The key thing to remember is to exclusively work the bottom area when weakfish are around.

When the weaks are mixed in with the blues and you have hopefully nailed your quota of weaks, it is then time to try and nail some of these tasty blues (the smaller blues, two to four pounds, are much better eating than their monster relatives), you once again drop the jig all the way until you hit bottom and proceed to reel in, in a steady manner all the way to the surface. Doing this on a steady basis will bring your jig right through the swarming blues and you should be able to nail yourself quite a few blues for the dinner table.

So, in conclusion, when you read about the weaks and blues invading the Port Jeff area in The Fisherman's fishing reports, give this area a shot and try these techniques and I'm sure you'll have positive results. Good luck and good fishing.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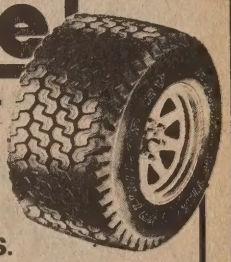

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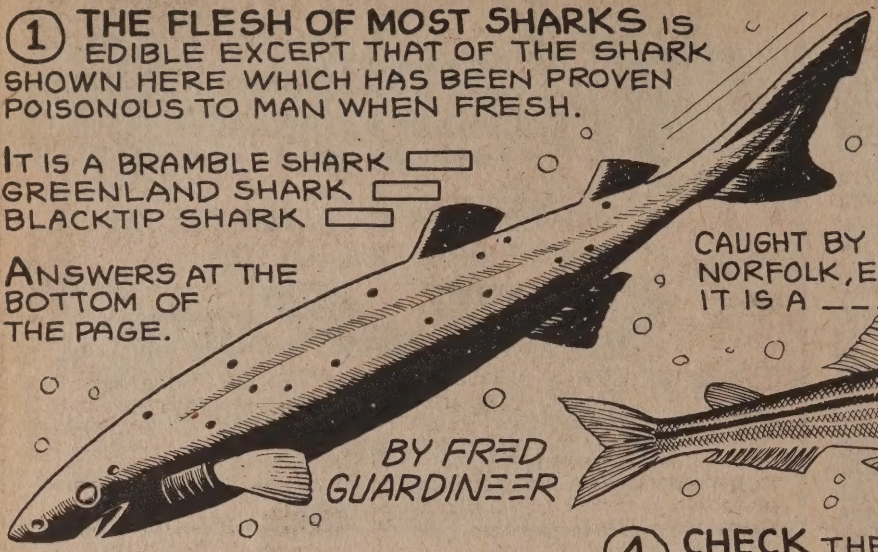
(1) **THE FLESH OF MOST SHARKS** IS EDIBLE EXCEPT THAT OF THE SHARK SHOWN HERE WHICH HAS BEEN PROVEN POISONOUS TO MAN WHEN FRESH.

IT IS A BRAMBLE SHARK ☐
GREENLAND SHARK ☐
BLACKTIP SHARK ☐

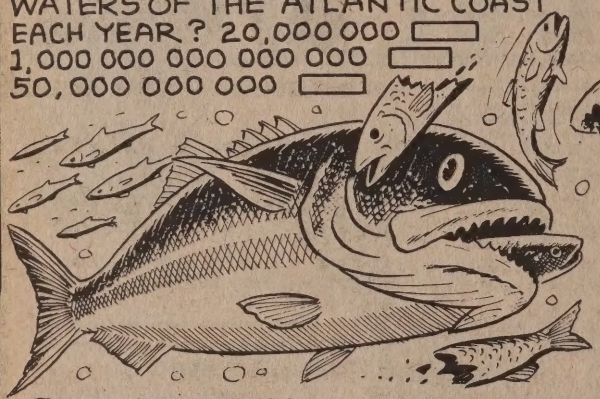
ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.



BY FRED GUARDINEER

(2) **THE SMALLEST** FISH EVER TO WIN A COMPETITION WEIGHED ONE-SIXTEENTH OF AN OUNCE. THE MINI-LUNKER BEAT OUT 107 OTHER ENTRIES AND WAS CAUGHT BY PETER CHRISTIAN OF NORFOLK, ENGLAND, JAN. 9, 1977. IT IS A _____

(3) **BLUEFISH** HAVE A BLOODTHIRSTY REPUTATION. HOW MANY FISH DO THEY KILL IN THE WATERS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST EACH YEAR? 20,000 000 ☐
1,000 000 000 000 000 ☐
50,000 000 000 ☐

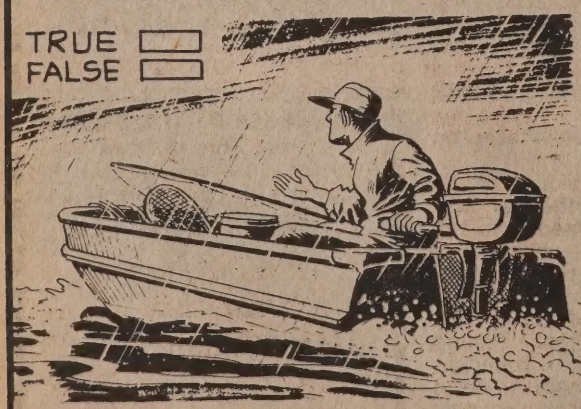


(4) **CHECK** THE CORRECT STATEMENTS ABOUT NORTHERN PIKE.

THEY ARE NATIVE TO EUROPE ☐ THEY LOSE THEIR TEETH IN SUMMER ☐
THEY FEED CHIEFLY AT NIGHT ☐ THEY RARELY JUMP WHEN HOOKED ☐

(5) **WHEN RAIN** BEGINS TO FALL IMMEDIATELY AFTER DARK CLOUDS APPEAR, THE STORM WILL NORMALLY BE OF SHORT DURATION.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



(6) **A HOOK** LEFT IN THE MOUTH OF A RELEASED FISH WILL USUALLY DO NO LASTING HARM.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

1 - GREENLAND SHARK. 2 - SMELT. 3 - 1,000,000,000,000,000. 4 - ONLY THE FIRST STATEMENT IS CORRECT. 5 - TRUE. 6 - TRUE. METAL OXIDATION AND A FESTERING ACTION AT THE HOOK SITE COMBINE TO RID FISH OF UNWANTED SOUVENIRS... USUALLY WITH NO LASTING DAMAGE TO FRESH OR SALTWATER ESCAPEES.

# East End REPORT

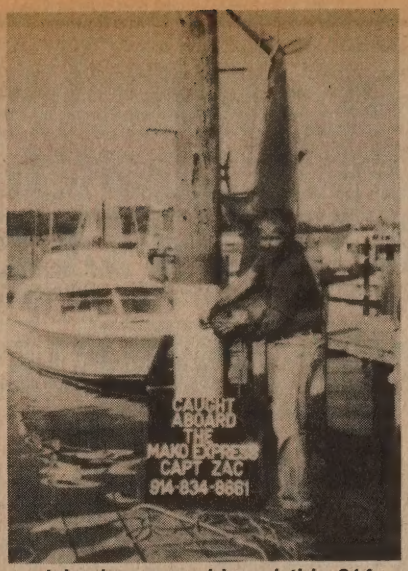
*with Stu Miller*

Offshore action on the East End was on the quiet side this weekend although the inshore scene was highlighted by some excellent fluke fishing, some fine weakfish action and a surprise showing of daytime bass action. There was some good porgy action in Peconic Bay while fluke and small blues continue to get the most play in Shinnecock.

## MONTAUK

From **Gone Fishing Marina**, Maureen Senefelder told of some excellent daytime bass action this past week with sharpies like John Alberda taking as many as 10 stripers in the 35-40 pound range a tide on some days. John's two biggest fish of the week were cows of 51 and 57 pounds. Sal Russo entered the magic 50 club with a 51½ pound cow taken on Capt. Bob Rocchetta's charter boat **Rainbow II**. The fish were all being taken on live bait. Capt. Bill Ricca of the charter boat **Alyssa Ann** fished members of the Herman family on Friday. Winners of the M.C.A.'s Sportsmens Expo Free Trip Drawing, the group made the most of the winning trip by taking 15 weaks to 9 pounds, 14 blues to 5 and 15 fluke fishing between Gin Beach and the point. Aboard the same boat on the weekend, the Cortez party diamond jigged 11 pollack between 29 and 37 pounds and 27 blues at Block Island. Offshore news was hard to come by tis weekend according to Maureen.

The Fourth of July Georges Bank trip aboard the "Viking Starship" paid off for "Doc" Shepard with a 56 lb. cod and Tom Kelly with a 53 pounder.




John Lorusso whipped this 214 lb. mako during a recent charter at Montauk aboard Capt. Zac Grossman's "Mako Express."

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** called it a slow week offshore though he did manage a mako for Eric VanDormelmen at 40 fathoms along with a few albacore. He did note that some giant tuna have been cavorting SE of Block Island. The skipper did put a party headed by Richie Yonkers into 80 blues during a weekend afternoon charter to Block Island.

Capt. Jerry McGrath of the charter boat **Nostalgia II** took it upon himself to donate a trip to Vietnam veterans. Winners of the free drawing enjoyed a banner day on Friday. Fishing east of Midway, butch DeRasmo, Joe Moore and John Burnett bailed 102 fluke to 3½ pounds. The skipper called the shark fishing in recent days slow.

An unusually small great white shark of 73 pounds was taken early last week aboard the boat Sea Breeze while fishing in the vicinity of the fingers. Roger Carman who skippered the boat said that according to Jack Casey of N.M.F.S., the fish was one of the smallest whites ever taken on rod and reel.

The Happy Hooker skippered by Fritz Garrecht and berthed at Star Island Yacht Club returned from the 40 fathom line SW of the point with a 203 pound mako landed by Dr. Sklar.

Capt. Bruce Kieffer of the charter boat **Ebb Tide** managed a mako for the Moffit party on Friday fishing south of the point in 180' of water. In general, shark fishing seems to be in a lull but those that are being caught, are makos. Inshore, plenty of blues and weaks at Shagwong.

One of the first giant tuna taken at the point was landed on Sunday by Greg Beecher aboard the **Dawn**.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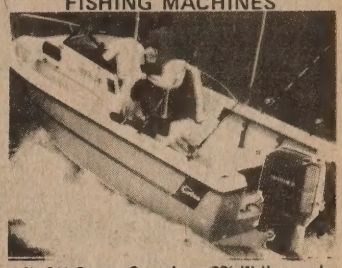

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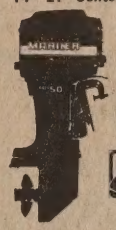

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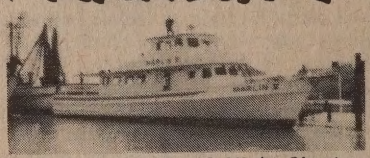

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Fishing out of the Deep Sea Club Marina, Chester and Barbara Wolfe ran their Sea Wolfe to Block Canyon with the help of Capt. Dennis Merten. They returned with plenty of albacore to 40 pounds and a 220 pound big eye taken by Chester.

As the summer continues to wear on the latest fish to really take hold solid are the porgies which seem to have set up housekeeping under the light at Great Eastern. Blues abound as do fluke and the cod at Coxes Ledge continue to oblige anglers.

We hear from Captain Zac of the **Mako Express** of Sunday's trip for the Bill Hickak party of three youngsters and two seniors age 68 and 70 and their bunch of longfin albies. Rudy Saleiccia, age 78 had a 35 lb. longfin albacore on a cast Ava jig on 15 lb. test spinning tackle. The skipper advised he still has July 31st open.

From the **Viking Fleet** we learn that porgy action was very good Saturday but slow Sunday due to heavy boat traffic which spooked the fish. Friday's high hook was 91 porgies and Saturday's was 72. Catches are being made at the Point and fish are medium/large. The cod trips to Coxes Ledge the skipper called very, ver good with fares averaging 12-15 cod a man with a 44 lber. taking the pool Sunday. Catches are being made on both bait and diamond jigs. Fluking in the Rips has been very good and on Sunday, five fish were in the 6-8 lb. range. Very few throwbacks. There's a lot of fluke around, also a few sea bass and mackerel. The night blue-

Tom Holohan, Joe Bartosik, Bob Bartosik, Mark Tricarico (not in photo) and Gary Hall put away several blues and 30 fluke during a recent trip to Montauk. Fishing was done at Shagwong with squid and spearing. Subscriber photo.

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fishing has been tremendous wiht the exception of Saturday night. Paul described it as a deckload of fish situation. Please note that the **Viking Starlight's** f irst trip to the porgy no-man's land will be held Friday, July 22 at 2AM with a $35 fare. The boat will return to the dock approximately 7Pm the same day and here's a good chance to fill the freezer.

Captain Bud Dorman of the 6 man limit open boat **Waxed** told of lively porgy fishing. At least a full 5-gallon bucket for anyone aboard with any skill. Some do better, fillin 2-3 full buckets. Marvin Baer, NJ was high hook for the week with 133 porgies (4 buckets plus). Catches also included sea bass, flounder, cod and macks. All of this was in the Montauk Rips under the Light.

We hear that the porgy boats **Little Bear** and **Flying Cloud** have really dug in on the porgies in local Montauk waters.

Aboard the charter boat **Joy Sea** the skipper reports his charters have had up to 3 sharks every trip out, blues and browns. Also some yellowfin tuna, white marlin and albacore have shown up over the weekend.

A call from charter boat **Vivienne** informs us that except for Monday and Tuesday, weakfishng has been good all week. Fluking has been very good with mixed weak and fluke common for the half day charters. Wednesday's half day had 30 weaks and 32 fluke cramming the fish box. John has a couple of open dates available, first come, first served.,

Aboard the charter boat **Free Spirit** on Friday John Miller and party tagged and released two brown and two blue shark while on Saturday's trip Jim Baker and group from Albany bagged a 204 lb. mako fishing 25 miles SE of the Point.

**Four-year-old Brian Hint and his first fish ever, a pair of blues and a flounder taken in Shinnecock Bay. Photo courtesy of Molnar's Landing in Hampton Bays.**

## SOUTH FORK

The Shinnecock open boat **Jenny Rose** made an offshore wreck trip on Saturday. The total for 17 fares was 250 ling, 25 sea bass and 5 cod. Evening bluefish trips have been very good with 25-30 blues per man in the 2-4 pound range being taken just outside Shinnecock Inlet. Day trips have witnessed some good porgy action and a few kingfish and weakfish have been mixed in each day.

Charlie Sensenbach of **Corr's Mariner's Cove** in **Hampton Bays** called the fluke fishing at the south end of the canal near buoy 34 very good in terms of quantity. Bigger fish are in east channel and off of the C.G. station. On Saturday, W. Johnson and friends tallies 30 fluke near the canal while Al Donofrio took a 4.11 pound fluke in east channel. The happiest fluke angler on the weekend had to be Mike TenHoeve. Drifting an array of squid strips in east channel aboard the High C's, the angler hooked and landed on 10 pound test a 32 pound striper. Small blues still roaming the bay and inlet with any small tin or jig taking their share of fish. Roy Wilson and crew returned to the marina with a 75 pound mako on Saturday.

Aboard the **Sag Harbor** head boat **Wilhelric II** Tuesday's and Wednesday's fluke trips did well fishing both Gardiner's and Truman's Beach. Fares averaged 8-10 keeper fluke and pools were in the 5 lb. class on squid and spearing. The rest of the week was filled up with porgy time which the skipper described as the best porgy week of the year so far. Most of the day some fares had over 100 porgies a man. Best action was the west side of Plum Island and at Petty's Bight. Fish ran from the largest to the smallest on worms and clam and squid. Again, skipper Artie Lach asked us to let you know he continues to have plenty of room on the boat on Saturdays and Sunday, so don't be afraid of being left on the dock.

**Bayview Fishing Station** told of very good porgy catches on his rental boats, fish 1 to 1¼ lbs. off Cedar Point and Mashomack Point. A few weaks and stripers at Cedar Point. Fluking at the Ruins has been very good on 2-4 lb. fish. Blues have been a very good item at Crow Shoals, at Gardiner's on umbrellas, fish 2-4 lbs. Blues being taken at the Ruins on tin.

In **Southampton, Speck's Bait and Tackle** said fluke are being caught in east channel on spearing and sand eels, while blues and small bass are hitting tins and poppers at Heady Creek. Small blues are also being taken in the inlet and outside the inlet. A few bass being taken in the inlet on live bait from dusk through dawn. In the Peconics, the area from buoys 15-18 (Middle Ground, Jessup's, Smith Cove) has been a good place to pick away at porgies, blues,

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weaks. Al Hoffman, Ron and Tony Dimonti and George Scavetta using spearing, smelt and squid had 19 good keeper fluke from 2-5 lbs. fishing the Ruins. Good porgy action at Eastern Plains Pt. and Crow Shoals. Lots of white marlin and big shark offshore.

# South Shore REPORT

*with Fred Golofaro*

Fluke established themselves in Moriches Bay this past week with a couple of very fine scores made along the south side of the bay betweens buoys 39 and 43. Not so surprisingly, flounder fishing still remains very good for those that haven't yet had their fill of the winter flatties. To the west, out of Fire Island Inlet, bluefish still remain the big news item as the fishing on the Patchogue grounds continued almost unabated this week. Fluke fishing provided the biggest surprise in this area with some skippers describing Saturday's action just outside the inlet on the edge of the west bar as some of the best they have seen in years. One skipper reported that one particular drift accounted for the best single drift for fluke he has ever seen. This fishing carried through Sunday although it did not match the tempo of Saturday's fishing.

## MORICHES BAY & INLET

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** reported some good fluking this past week with the best of it located east of buoy 41 and the best bait sandeel and squid combos. Andy Regina (not "our" Andy Regina) tallied 25 keepers by himself in this area one day during the week. He used sand eel-fluke belly combos. Biggest flattie of the weekend was a 7.10 pound doormat taken by Tommy Borst on Saturday. Gary reminded there are still lots of flounder south of buoy 34. Best action for both flatties is three hours before or after high water.

Lots of fluke this week but off a bit on Sunday according to Jim DeVita of **Skidmore's Fishing Station**. All the action has been on the south side of the bay between 39 and 43 and also at the elbow where some bigger fish seem to be concentrated. Among some of the better scores made this past week were Matt and John Viol who put away 53 keepers to 4 pounds on Saturday. They fished between buoys 42 and 43 with spearing/squid

**A big flounder any time, but especially for July, was this 3.2 pounder taken by Dominic Sardone Sr. out of Skidmore's Fishing Station in E. Moriches.**

combo and killie/squid combos as well as salty dogs. Also on Saturday Walt Czekaj and his two sons bagged 23 keepers in the same area same dauy Jim also put in a word for the flounder action which he said was good at buoys 36, 39, and at Betty's Hole.

A nice showing of fluke over the weekend according to Jim Green of **L & M Marine** in **East Moriches**. On Saturday, John Nepson and Jerry Masterson of the Cousins Two worked the buoy 42 area to the tune of 24 keepers to 3 pounds. They used killie and squid combos. Average catch per boat on Sunday was 8-12 keepers working the same buoy 42 area. Jim reminded there is still good flounder fishing near buoy 30 with 2-3 dozen keepers per boat about average.

Capt. Chip of the open boat **Capt. Leo D** continues to make flounder his main target. He spoke of "fabulous" fishing between buoys 29 and 38 with many fares taking 20-30 flatties a piece. Pool fish each day is in the 2 pound class. Hi-hook on Saturday were Kenny and Sharon of White Plains with 86 keepers between them. Johnny "C" of C.I. took hi-hook honors on Friday with 42 flounder.

## GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** noted an improvement in the fluke fishing over the weekend with John Wildman's catch of 13 fluke at Ocean Beach on Friday setting a precedant. Squid/killile combos turned the trick. Paul said there was a showing of bigger weaks in the 7-8 pound class off of Heckscher during the week with one customer reporting finding the fish on top in the early

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AM. He took 3 on cast rebels. Snappers made a showing at the local docks but they are still too small to attract much attention. Crabbing remains pretty good. On the freshwater scene young Orlando Fandor held on to a 5.9 pound largemouth in Mill Pond, Patchogue and hence has become the current leader in the shop contest.

Vinny of **South Bay Fishing Station** in **West Sayville** said that hordes of 1-3 pound blues have been all over the bay with any small tin or spoon drawing attention. Best is early AM or late afternoon but the fish can show any time. A good showing of fluke along the Fire Island Shore this weekend with action spread from Fire Island Pines to Ocean Beach. Lots of crabs and a few blowfish near the station and from local docks.

Rod DiGiacomo of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** said that bluefishing at the inlet has been absolutely wild with 007 and A 17 jigs accounting for the bulk of the fish. Most are in the 1-4 pound range. There are some small weaks off of Heckscher on nightcrawlers fished from a small diamond jig and fluke fishermen enjoyed a few decent shots of fish at Ocean Beach over the weekend. There was some very good fluking on Saturday and Sunday just outside the inlet with some boatmen racking up some unusually high scores. The only offshore action that Rod knew of included some bigeye tuna taken on the east ledge of the Hudson Canyon on soft head (wide range) lures.

A couple of young lady anglers checked in a two day total of 34 fluke at **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in **East Islip** according to Mike Cioffi. The fish were not of the local variety, however, as they were imported from Moriches Bay. Local fluking got a real shot in the arm with some very, very good action enjoyed by anglers working just outside the inlet on Saturday and Sunday. There was some decent action also reported from the lighthouse area. Largest fluke that Mike saw on the weekend was a 3½ pounder taken by Gary Schwal. Loads of little blues spread throughout the bay and at the inlet being taken by trollers, jiggers and casters. 007's seem to be the favorite lure for these small choppers.

From **Smokey's Tackle** in **Bay Shore**, Carl Miller said that the current fluke action was pretty good with sand eels seeming to be the preferred bait. One boat checked in with 26 keepers taken at West Channel over the weekend and Carl also touted the excellent shot of fish located just outside the inlet on Saturday where a number of boats did

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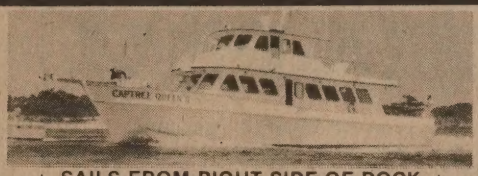

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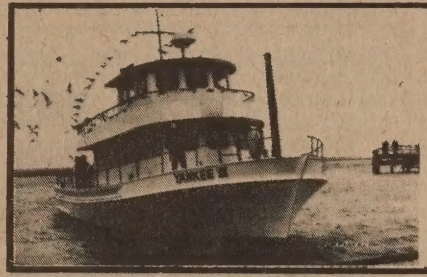

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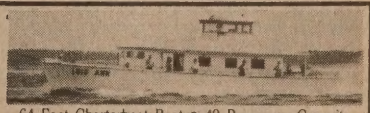

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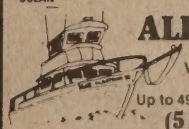

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a fine job. Little blues are everywhere with a few big weaks mixed with them at the inlet. Wednesday saw a number of big weaks mixed with the blues. Porgy fans will be pleased to know that there is a decent concentration of fish to 2½ pounds near buoy 8, West Island. Some sea bass are mixed with them and both squid and sandworms have been taking both species. Bluefishing remains solid on the Patchogue Grounds for jiggers and trollers by day and chummers by night. Carl saw a 400 pound mako taken SW of the inlet in 105' of water on SAturday. Even more impressive, was the 397 pound bluefin tuna taken by Bill Biscardi aboard the Karen Ann. The big tuna was whipped on a 50 pound outfit but it took the hard pressed angler 3 hours and 45 minutes to subdue the fish whaich was taken out of a chum slick just east of the Oregon Wreck. Carl noted that quite a few bluefin tuna have been seen in the vicinity of the Compass Rose. As for canyon action, Carl knew that the west wall of the Hudson was hot on Saturday with a number of bigeyes and yellowfin tuna taken.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree** open boat **Captree Queen II** said that bluefishing continued excellent every night this week with all of the fishing being done on the Patchogue Grounds Catches range anywhere from 10 a man on up with the exception of one or two nights where action was not quite up to par. Average fish goes anywhere from 5-10 pounds. Fluke fishing left a lot to be desired up until the weekend which for a change came through with flying colors. Murphy's Law usually calls for good fishing to drop dead on the weekend just in time for the crowd of weekend anglers. Saturday afternoon's half-day trip saw the average catch in the 10 fish range fishing near the mouth of the inlet. Both the AM and the afternoon trip on Sunday produced good action in the same area with quite a few fish in the 2-3 pound range included in the catches.

According to Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI**, both day and night bluefish action remained excellent in 90' of water SE of the Inlet with fish ranging between 6 and 12 pounds. Steve Molander, who had 50 choppers last Sunday went home with 40 on this Sunday's day trip. The Speedy VII cashed in on that good run of fluke at the inlet on both Saturday and Sunday. Evening bluefish-weakfish trips have been popular with fares accounting for loads of 1-4 pound blues at the inlet on tiger tail jigs. The skipper suggested that fares bring along their own spinning tackle to take best advantage of this action. An occasional weak is mixed with the blues.

Capt. George Tweedy of the open boat **Capt. Scotty 3** called fluking good with an excellent catch of fish being made Saturday afternoon just outside the inlet. Bluefishing has been terrific with some fares taking as many as 60 choppers in the 5-12 pound range on at least one night. Fishing is all being done on the Patchogue Grounds. Beginning this Wednesday, (July 20th), George will be sailing 2 trips--7AM-7PM daily for blues.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Joseph II** called the night bluefishing excellent for fish in the 5-12 pound range. Friday night's trip was an out and out slaughter with a number of fares bagging over 30 blues. Saturday was still good but big crowds limited the action somewhat. Fishing is being done in the 90' depths south of Cherry Grove and Patchogue. Fluke provided a pleasant surprise getting off to a slow pick Saturday AM and then providing 3 great hours of fishing later in the day just outside the inlet. Ninety percent of these fish were keepers. Charlie credited Capt. Nick Mancini of the Speedy VI with calling him in and with providing one of the best fluke weekends in a long time for most of the fleet. Fishing remained good on Sunday despite the whole fleet being in the area. Nevertheless, fares enjoyed a steady pick all day long.

Capt. Bill Russo of the charter boat **Prime Time** labelled the weekend fluking as excellent. Rather than run to the inlet the skipper found his fishing in the State Channel. Cathy Mataroros headed Saturday's AM charter. Saturday afternoon's trip produced the best fluking of the year

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for Robert Kleinman and friends at the Inlet. Two charters on Sunday enjoyed some very fine fluking again at the inlet. A number of the fluke taken in this area approached the 3 pound mark.

Capt. Tom Burke of the **Captree** charter boat **Lady Ann** said that fluking during the week ranged from slow to fair but received a real shot in the arm on Saturday with some super action found along the edge of the west bar. The skipper told as some drifts with as many as 20 fish on at a time. Sunday's fishing, while not as hot as Saturday's, was still very good and produced a 7.2 pound doormat. Night bluefishing remains excellent at the Patchogue Grounds with a Friday night charter averaging 15 blues per man in the 6-12 pound range.

Fred Austin, speaking from **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, said that lots of boats cashed in on that run of fluke outside the inlet over the weekend. Many also loaded up on small blues and an occasional weak inside the inlet. Six to twelve pound blues are stacked in 70-90' of water SE of the inlet for jiggers, trollers and chummers. Small snappers showed at the Town Dock but have yet to provide a real challenge to youngsters. Crabbing remains good locally. Fred passed along a few of the bigger sharks of the Surfside III contest held over the weekend. The obvious winner was the first 1,000 pound-plus tiger shark taken in this area. The 1047 pound shark was taken by Bob Jessen aboard the Wide Open II. The Happy Hooker nailed down second place with a 692 pound tiger while the Fast Eddie accounted for yet another tiger, this one a 472 pounder. Fred also knew that the private boat My Way returned from the Canyon on Sunday with a pair of big eyes.

Capt. Jack Stoddard of the **Babylon** open boat **Luci III** said that fluking improved noticeably as a new body of fish settled into the inlet. Mixed with

**Ralph Green, Jr. shows a pair of nice fluke taken in Great South Bay aboard the Babylon open boat, "Luci III."**


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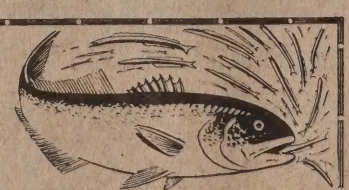
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**Richard Pokowitz and Wolfgang Posnjak pose alongside Wolfgang's first mako. It was taken SE of Fire Island Inlet. Photo courtesy of J&R Sport Center in Oakdale.**

fluke at the inlet are plenty of small blues. Also an occasional weak is taken when fishing the inlet area. One customer had an 8 pounder on Friday.

From **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, Mike Andreanni told of 10-year-old Rich Miller who held on to a 5.13 pound blackfish fishing near buoy 8, West Island on Thursday. The youngster who was using 6 pound test at the time also had a number of other blackfish as well as a bunch of porgies. Fluking improved with good scores made on the weekend between the bridge and the inlet and also in the State Channel. Plenty of small blues, all you want, and a few big weaks at the inlet on umbrella rigs and 007 jigs. A few weaks taken during the week in west channel on sand worms. Big blues are in 90-100' of water south and southeast of the inlet and there has been bluefin tuna activity reported around the area of the Compass Rose.

Capt. Len of the charter boat **Fishfinder** loaded up on blues both Friday and Saturday at Patchogue. On Friday, the work was done by Lorraine and Andy Sauer, and Steve Smith and Angelo Florez. Saturday's chores were handled by Micheal Cooney, with plenty of help from the boat's crew.

From **z-Crab Tackle** in **Copiague**, Ralph Angelillo relayed word of an 80 pound mako whipped on a 20 pound outfit out of a 20' garvey by Mike Giarratuto on Sunday. Scene of the action was the NA buoy. Also on Sunday Ralph knew that Bruce Turnbull whipped a 200 pound big eye aboard the Snapper II. He used a Green Machine and returned from the canyon with 4 albacore as well. Fluking was very good just outside the inlet on Saturday and Sunday. Ralph knew of at least 1 boatman who

put away a couple of dozen flatties here on Saturday. Ralph, along with Tom Testa used Hopkins on Sunday to take 40 blues and 3 weaks on Sunday. Small weaks are in the Copiague Hole and also just off of Willets Point, West Islip. Plenty of blues from 6-12 pounds in 80-90' of water SE of the inlet on chunk bait, jigs and umbrella rigs. Both day and night action has been top notch.

# West End REPORT

*with Stu Miller*

The most red hot action in this part of the world is the bluefishing with fish running anywhere from 2 to 17 lbs. with constant solid catches being the name of the game, day and night with rare exceptions. While the fluke and flounder oblige to some extent, it's the very hungry bluefish that grab the honors here.

## WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

From **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** we learned that two rental skiffs on Sunday each returned with 17 keeper fluke. On Saturday one rental returned with a 5 gal. pailful. Best areas have been Squaw Island, Great Island channel and Goose Creek between the 2nd and 3rd Wantagh bridges. Plenty of bccs in the station's canal. A few blowfish and flounder in the area of th Jones Beach piers and around the Meadowbrook. Stripers at night all around the high at the 3rd Wantagh and at Black Banks on bellies. One night hawk had 11 of these schoolie bass up to 29 inches long.

Also out of **Seaford**, Captains Sig and Frank of the charter boat **3 Sea Sons** report that shark fishing has never been better with makos almost every trip. On Tuesday a 267 lb. mako was landed by a party led by Pete Mulligan of Westbury. Wednesday saw a 240 lb. mako landed by Bill Stacy and party from Albany. On Friday's charter a 212 lb. mako wasa the score for a party of 4 from the Evening Post in Massapequa. The boat still has some choice dates available for full and split charters.

We hear from Dwayne at **Custom Tackle** that Al Clark fishing the Black Banks with live bunker Sunday night scored with a 20 lb. striper and 3 weaks in the 7 lb. class. Frank DiCarlo fishing at Cholera had 8 blues that averaged 14 lb. each. Good fluking at Massapequa Cove and blackfish are still there to be caught at the 3rd Meadowbrook bridge.

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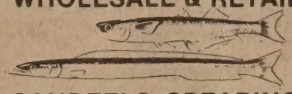
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In a call from **Pop's Fishing Station** we are told of good fishing on both side of the 2nd Wantagh Bridge and in Massapequa Cove. Fluke, black, sea bass and somke flounder are being caught. Most rentals are averaging 6 keeper fluke per boat, and customers are working with a 1/3 keeper ratio. Best bait has been killie-squid combos on an incoming tide. Bccs are starting but many are females loaded with eggs and they should be thrown back.

We hear from **Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle** of very good fluking at Massapequa Cove, Haunts and Goose Creeks and off Keenes. Killie-spearing combos seem to have been working very well. Try flounder at the 3rd Wantagh and at the Meadowbrook bridge. A few weaks being taken at night on sand worms at the big Meadowbrook and 3rd Wantagh, to 10 lbs. Small blues just outside the inlet on trolled umbrellas. Cholera has been loaded with big blues and there are big blue claw crabs in the bay.

As for the boats out of **Freeport** we hear from the **Starstream II** of excellent bluefishng all week both day and night trips. Sunday was a little slow due to the excessive boat traffic. Fish have been running 3-9 lbs. with pools hanging in there in the 10 lb. class. Action is around the Three Sisters area.

We hear from the **Capt. Al** that the boat is averaging 500 to 1,000 bluefish a trip both day and night and that this week has been even better than last week, which itself was great. Fish running 5-10 lbs., averaging 6-8 lbers. with mates gaffing constantly. Some fares have been getting 3 full burlap bags full per trip during the week. The area fished has been south to SW of Cholera, 6-15 miles off the beach. Loads of fish said the skipper. He is also seeing sunfish, big shark and big loggerhead turtles. Nine year old Kyle Winge had 10 blues on Wednesday and 9 on Friday.

Aboard the charter boat **Apus II**, Capt. Mike Miller has been having super bluefishing from Cholera to Three Sisters on 3 oz. Trifin diamond jigs. Offshore sharking has been good and he is seeing lots of marlin. He raised two marlin this week on Striker Sorties.

The word from the charter boat **Lady J III** is that Monday's charter for Capri Kitchen Cabinets enjoyed super bluefishng at the Farms and Sisters on 6-8 lb. fish that wanted jigs. Thurday's trip for Oceanside Community Activites picked away at fluke in Reynolds Channel. Friday's trip for Joe Stasiak and group, NYC had decent fluking in Reynolds channel and in the back creeks on spearing. On Saturday Forest Park Inn fishing club had great blues south of the Siters on diamond jigs, fish 6 to 12 lbs. Saturday night saw the Unicorn Fishng Club of W. Islip with a solid catch of blues on bait and chum. On Sunday Metrpolitan Painting Contractors Painting Association fished a

tough day on blues with heavy boat traffic keeping the fish down.

A call from the charter boat **Ivory Queen** told of Friday's trip for Milburne Service Station headed by Ben Poligo that took 360 lbs. of blues, fish up to 9 lbs. on umbrellas. Action was at Cholera and Middle Grounds. Saturday's trip for TWA led by Ted Tedesco featured a 230 lb. bigeye tuna. Another one approximately the same size was dropped. They also had a 60 lb. white marl in which was photographed and released, a practice many ought to follow.

From the **Blue Fin Fleet**, we hear of great bluefish catches right through the weekend with high hooks in the 20s, catches anywhere from 10-15 miles SW of Jones. It's been jigging daytime and baiting nights. Fish are averaging 4-6 lbs. with occasional 9 and 10 lbers mixed in. Both day and night trips have been super. Pool winners of the week have been Ray Mineo, Curt Mann, Larry Stratton, Bob Frye, Burt Struchim and Mike Orlando. Kurt was also high hook on the trip as was Larry with 17 blues. Jigs with or without tails are doing it and a fast retrieve reel spooled with 30 lb. mono is the ticket. A 4½ lb. fluke was the pool flattie for the week in the Riis Park area for Larry Roelofsen of the Happy Hookers Fishing Club.

From the charter boat **Capt. Gary** we learn of Friday's good fluke trip for Anned Labs working Jones and Long Creek. High hook was Shelley Woolsey with 11 keeper fluke. Pool honors went to Allen Agazanian with a 3½ lber. Saturday'sa bluefish trip for Buzz Johnson and pals fished SW of Cholera. Buzz took the pool with a 12 lber. while Mr. Bill was high hook with 14. All action was on jigs. Saturday night's trip for Andy Schwartz and group did a job at Cholera. J. Swain took the pool with a 10 lb. blue while Andy was high hook with 10 fish. Sunday's fluke trip for the Ed Morgan party had good results in the west part of Reynolds channel. Ed was high hook with 15 and George Morgan had a 4 lb. pool fish.

Captain Arnold of the charter boat **Shalidon** has a canyon overnighter Friday for Al Levinberg, Baldwin and party. A 64 lb. white marlin was taken by Alvin Poskar after 12 jumps by the white. Lots of shark action during the night and George Stiefel of Baldwin socked it to a 125 lb. mako under the stars. Perry Waldner and Steve Goldstein had longfin albacore and yellowfin tuna. It was just a super trip.

The **Miss Freeport II** told of excellent night bluefishing. They literally loaded up Thur. night. 93 fish was the body count for Valley Stream angler Fred Birkenfeld and Larry Treff of Oceanside counted 79 blues for himself that night. On Wednesday night, Ed Wallace took the pool with a 16 lber. It was a slaughter right through Saturday night just one hour from the inlet. Fluking has been picky all week with high hook of the week 12

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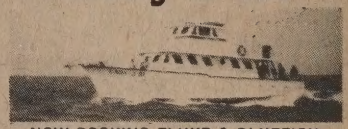

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# FREEPORT

**Even the rain couldn't keep these members of the Post Fishing Club from racking up a fine score of flounder and fluke during a club outing aboard the Point Lookout charter boat, "Marie III."**

keepers. Catches differed from day to day and could be labeled inconsistent. Stacey Hoskins of Hempstead had a 4 lb. fluke along with 4 other fluke. The skipper has been working Jones Inlet and some of the back creeks.

Aboard the **Capt. Andy Fleet** fluke catches have been better some days and some tides than others with a few fish taken on each drift, largest fish of the week being a 4 lber. Flounder catches have been good in the deeper areas of Sloop Channel, but where are the people?

Aboard the charter boat **Nicki b** fishing Saturday a little north of the Texas tower a charter scored with 2 tiger shark, weight 500 and 300 lbs.

We learn from **Hudson Pt. Fishing Station** that aboard Gambler II Tom Ragogma hoisted a 225 lb. mako Saturday two miles east of the HA.

Out of nearby **Point Lookout** the word from the **Miss Point Lookout** is that fluking has been fair this week. Friday's AM trip had roughly 175 keepers. Andy Nelson has 10 keepers by himself. Saturday's Am trip saw Brian Linder with a 3 lb. pool fish. Saturday's PM trip had George Nemick with a 5 lb. fluke. Sunday's AM trip had Pat Dellacamera with a 4½ lb. pool fish. Sunday's PM trip saw Manny Rappaport with a 2¾ lb. pool fish. Night bluefishing trips have been from good to slaughter city. Friday night was a super night. Dallas had 55 blues. Joe Lien had an 18 lb. pool winner and 27 additional fish. On Saturday night, Joe Aumuller had a 12 lb. pool fish and nearly 1,000 fish were taken that night in the 6-12 lb. range.

The **Capt. Bill** has been doing a fair fluke job except for the weekend with its heavy boat traffic. High hooks have been 4-5 keeper fluke a trip through Friday. Fish ran 2½ to 3 lbs. early in the week. They dropped down to 14 and 15 inch fish Thursday and Friday. All activity has been local. There's been roughly a 50 percent keeper ratio and there are lots of fluke in the Flats now. Saturday night's bluefishing was excellent with catches of fish 5-10 lbs.

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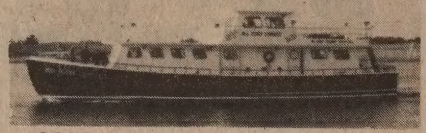

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blues, pool winner was Dick Guttler with an 11¾ lber. High hook was Fuzzy Alber with 37 blues followed by Raph Valler with 32 blues. Catches were excellent for this group from the FBI using diamond jigs with or without tubes. Most fish ran 5-7 lbs. with a few 10-12 lbers mixed in. Friday night's trip to the Sisters again saw excellent bluefishing, same sizes. Pool honors went to Chuck Russo with a 14¾ lber. Second place went to Wayne Right, with a 13¾ lber. This was all on butters and chum. Over 300 blues were taken in just 3 hours. Saturday fluking was best in Reynolds Channel, off the golf course and at the railroad trestle. Chris Hagerstorm took the pool. Out of 300 fluke, 100 were keepers. (approx.) Pool fish ran 3¼ lbs. Squid and sand eels work best on incoming tide.

We learn from **Scotty's Fishing Station** of the 3¾ lb. flounder caught Wednesday in Jones Inlet by Marty Marrione.

From **Ed's Fishing Station** Marilyn tells of the better fluking had Monday through Friday in the flats and off the golf course from buoys 16 to 18 in Reynolds. Too much boat traffic on the weekends she said. Swift Creek is improving on fluke while it still holds catches of flounder, as does the CG area. Late in the day, cocktail blues are being taken on small tubes just outside the inlet. Those WORKING for fluke can scratch up a decent catch.
catch. Last week we reported Phyllis O'donnell's fluke was 4 lbs. 7 oz. The correct weight was 7 lbs. 4 oz. Our goof!

Out of **Island Park**, the **Commodore** reported having very good fluke catches all week in the bay, fish to 5 lbs. 30 keepers was the score for Sid Lee Saturday. Wednesday was the only bum day, a victim of winds. Catches have averaged 10-15 keepers a man all week with action really bouncing back. The fluke like the last half of incoming best, with the ebb being just okay. The water has cleared up tremendously from what it was last week. A few fish have been taken off Riis Park also.

From **Beckmann's Tackle 'in Lynbrook** we learn of the 11 lb. blue for Rich Pawlatk, Jr on Happy Days, along with 12 other blues at Cholera. Very good flounder fishing in Sloop channel, at the Meadowbrook and CG areas especially in the deep holes. Great bluefishing offshore with some bass chummed at the Atlantic Beach Bridge and also taken on small umbrellas there. BCC action can only be classified as fair.

From **Long Beach Sports Marina** we hear fluking has improved during the week with best areas being Debs, Duck Point, and buoys 5 and 7 in Reynolds. Dan Villani and grandson John Dempsey returned with a tub of beautiful fluke Friday taken at the buoy 5 flats on killie-squid combos. Most productive are the last 2 hours of incoming and the first 2 of outgoing. Blues have been tremen-

# High Tide Tables

**How to use tide tables:** To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

| DAY | SANDY HOOK AM | SANDY HOOK PM | BREAKWATER HARBOR AM | BREAKWATER HARBOR PM | NEW YORK AM | NEW YORK PM | NEW LONDON AM | NEW LONDON PM | WILLETS POINT AM | WILLETS POINT PM | BRIDGEPORT AM | BRIDGEPORT PM | NEWPORT AM | NEWPORT PM | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| THURS. | 6:00 | 6:30 | 7:00 | 7:20 | 6:45 | 7:10 | 7:55 | 8:05 | 10:20 | 10:40 | 9:40 | 9:55 | 5:50 | 6:15 | 7/21 |
| FRI. | 6:50 | 7:15 | 7:50 | 8:10 | 7:35 | 7:55 | 8:40 | 8:50 | 11:10 | 11:25 | 10:30 | 10:40 | 6:40 | 7:00 | 7/22 |
| SAT. | 7:35 | 7:55 | 8:30 | 8:50 | 8:20 | 8:35 | 9:20 | 9:30 | 11:50 | — | 11:10 | 11:25 | 7:25 | 7:45 | 7/23 |
| SUN. | 8:20 | 8:30 | 9:10 | 9:25 | 9:05 | 9:15 | 10:00 | 10:05 | 12:05 | 12:30 | 11:50 | — | 8:10 | 8:25 | 7/24 |
| MON. | 8:55 | 9:10 | 9:50 | 10:05 | 9:45 | 9:50 | 10:35 | 10:45 | 12:40 | 1:10 | 12:00 | 12:30 | 8:50 | 9:05 | 7/25 |
| TUES. | 9:35 | 9:45 | 10:30 | 10:40 | 10:25 | 10:30 | 11:15 | 11:20 | 1:05 | 1:30 | 12:40 | 1:05 | 9:30 | 9:45 | 7/26 |
| WED. | 10:15 | 10:25 | 11:05 | 11:15 | 11:10 | 11:05 | 11:55 | — | 1:15 | 1:40 | 1:15 | 1:40 | 10:10 | 10:25 | 7/27 |
| THURS. | 10:50 | 11:00 | 11:45 | 11:55 | 11:45 | 11:40 | 12:00 | 12:35 | 1:40 | 2:05 | 1:50 | 2:15 | 10:55 | 11:05 | 7/28 |

## On Sandy Hook

| | |
|---|---|
| STATEN ISLAND | +0 27 |
| ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS | –0 01 |
| Red Bank, Navesink River | +1 42 |
| Long Branch | –0 34 |
| SHARK RIVER INLET | –0 18 |
| Shark River Basin | +0 27 |
| MANASQUAN INLET | –0 12 |
| Seaside Park | –0 33 |
| Mantoloking bridge | +5 34 |
| TOMS RIVER | +4 37 |
| Waretown | +2 33 |
| BARNEGAT LIGHT | –0 20 |
| Manahawkin Bridge | +2 33 |
| Beach Haven | +1 47 |
| LITTLE EGG INLET | –0 01 |
| Seven Islands | +0 12 |
| Graveling Point | +1 05 |
| Mullica River | +1 55 |
| Grassy Bay | +1 08 |
| ABSECON INLET | +0 14 |
| Atlantic City Pier | –0 26 |
| Great Egg Harbor Inlet | +0 12 |
| GREAT EGG HARBOR | +0 44 |
| CORSON INLET | +0 09 |
| TOWNSENDS INLET | +0 06 |
| HEREFORD INLET | +0 02 |
| Grassy Sound Bridge | +0 45 |
| Cape May Harbor | –0 02 |
| Rehobeth Beach | –0 07 |
| INDIAN RIVER INLET | +0 41 |
| SHINNECOCK INLET | –0 50 |
| Shinnecock Bay | +1 25 |
| East Quogue | +2 45 |
| Shinnecock Canal | +1 18 |
| Indian Reservation | +3 05 |
| MORICHES INLET | –0 56 |
| Smith's Point | +3 28 |
| Hart's Cove | +1 30 |
| Pontunk Point | +3 35 |
| Mastic Beach | +3 28 |
| FIRE ISLAND INLET | –0 38 |
| Democrat Point | –0 38 |
| Coast Guard Station | –0 19 |
| Fire Island Light | +0 47 |
| GREAT SOUTH BAY | |
| Sayville (Brown Creek) | +3 39 |
| Heckscher State Park | +3 20 |
| Bay Shore | +2 23 |
| Babylon | +2 12 |
| Amityville | +2 21 |
| JONES INLET | –0 19 |
| Zachs Bay | +1 25 |
| Seaford Harbor | +2 05 |
| Freeport Creek | +0 34 |
| E. ROCKAWAY INLET | –0 06 |
| Long Beach Bridge | +0 19 |
| ROCKAWAY INLET | 0 00 |
| Beach Channel Bridge | +0 38 |
| J.F.K. Airport | +0 26 |

## On Bridgeport

| | |
|---|---|
| Lloyd Point | +0 08 |
| Cold Spring Harbor | +0 08 |
| Bayville Bridge | +0 13 |
| Eatons Neck Point | +0 03 |
| Northport Bay | +0 03 |
| Norwalk Islands | +0 10 |
| Smithtown Bay | +0 08 |
| Cranes Neck Point | +0 05 |
| Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance | +0 03 |
| New Haven Harbor | +0 08 |
| Mount Sinai Harbor | +0 05 |
| Herod Point | –0 07 |
| Mattituck Inlet | +0 05 |
| Horton Point | –0 20 |
| Truman Beach | –0 42 |
| Falkner Island | –0 13 |
| Sachem Head | –0 10 |
| Branford Harbor | –0 07 |
| New Haven Harbor entrance | –0 08 |
| Milford Harbor | –0 07 |
| Stratford, Housatonic River | +0 27 |
| Shelton, Housatonic River | +1 36 |
| Black Rock Harbor entrance | –0 03 |
| Saugatuck River entrance | –0 01 |
| South Norwalk | +0 10 |
| Greens Ledge | –0 01 |
| Stamford | +0 04 |
| Cos Cob Harbor | +0 06 |
| Greenwich | +0 02 |

## On New London

| | |
|---|---|
| Orient | +0 36 |
| Little Gull Is. (Race) | +0 12 |
| Greenport | +1 04 |
| Southold | +1 43 |
| New Suffolk | +2 26 |
| South Jamesport | +2 32 |
| Shinnecock Canal | +2 33 |
| Noyack Bay | +2 05 |
| Sag Harbor | +0 59 |
| Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay | +0 21 |
| Promised Land, Napeague Bay | –0 14 |
| Montauk Inlet | –0 25 |
| Montauk Point, north side | –1 13 |
| Niantic | +1 20 |
| Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound | –0 33 |
| Noank, Mystic River ent. | –0 23 |
| THAMES RIVER | |
| Smith Cove entrance | –0 01 |
| Norwich | +0 12 |
| CONNECTICUT RIVER | |
| Saybrook Jetty | +1 10 |
| Lyme, highway bridge | +1 24 |
| Essex | +1 38 |
| East Haddam | +2 41 |
| Higganum Creek | +2 54 |

## On Willets Point

| | |
|---|---|
| Little Neck Bay | –0 10 |
| Execution Light | –0 06 |
| Manhasset Bay | –0 01 |
| Hempstead Harbor | –0 11 |
| City Island | –0 03 |
| Rye Beach | –0 28 |
| Port Chester | –0 09 |
| Mamaroneck | –0 08 |
| New Rochelle | –0 24 |
| Davids Island | –0 02 |

## On Breakwater Harbor

| | |
|---|---|
| CAPE MAY POINT | –0 10 |
| Miami Beach | +0 17 |
| East Pt., Maurice River Cove | +0 53 |
| Egg Island Point | +0 33 |
| Cape Henlopen | –0 05 |
| ROOSEVELT INLET | +0 09 |
| Mispillion River entrance | +0 33 |

## On New York

| | |
|---|---|
| Jersey City | +0 07 |
| George Washington Bridge | +0 46 |
| Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge | +0 58 |
| Ossining | +1 53 |
| Peekskill | +2 24 |
| West Point | +3 16 |
| Newburgh | +3 42 |

## On Newport

| | |
|---|---|
| Sakonnet | –1 10 |
| Tiverton (between bridges) | +0 21 |
| Beavertail Point | –0 02 |
| Prudence Is., Sandy Point | +1 10 |
| Bristol | +1 10 |
| Warren | +0 21 |
| Nayatt Point | +0 12 |
| Pawtucket, Seekonk River | +0 21 |
| East Greenwich | +0 16 |
| Wickford | +0 12 |
| Narragansett Pier | –0 08 |
| Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge | –0 07 |
| BLOCK ISLAND | |
| Great Salt Pond | +0 05 |
| Block Island (Old Harbor) | –0 14 |
| Watch Hill Point | +0 44 |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| DAY / DATE: | RISE: | SET: |
|---|---|---|
| THU. 7/21 | 5:42 | 8:30 |
| FRI. 7/22 | 5:43 | 8:29 |
| SAT. 7/23 | 5:44 | 8:28 |
| SUN. 7/24 | 5:45 | 8:27 |
| MON. 7/25 | 5:46 | 8:26 |
| TUE. 7/26 | 5:47 | 8:25 |
| WED. 7/27 | 5:48 | 8:24 |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| DAY / DATE: | RISE: | SET: |
|---|---|---|
| THU. 7/21 | 6:05PM | 2:43AM |
| FRI. 7/22 | 7:00PM | 3:26AM |
| SAT. 7/23 | 7:49PM | 4:14AM |
| SUN. 7/24 | 8:32PM | 5:07AM |
| MON. 7/25 | 9:09PM | 6:04AM |
| TUE. 7/26 | 9:41PM | 7:03AM |
| WED. 7/27 | 10:09PM | 8:02AM |

## Moon Phases

| NEW | 1st Qtr. | FULL | Last Qtr. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7/10 | 7/17 | 7/24 | 7/3 |

## The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

| | AM | | PM | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Minor | Major | Minor | Major |
| Thurs. | 2:55 | 9:00 | 3:10 | 9:25 |
| Fri. | 3:40 | 9:45 | 3:55 | 10:10 |
| Sat. | 4:25 | 10:45 | 4:55 | 11:00 |
| Sun. | 5:15 | 11:20 | 5:30 | 11:45 |
| Mon. | 6:00 | — | 6:15 | 12:05 |
| Tues. | 6:45 | 12:30 | 7:05 | 12:55 |
| Wed. | 7:25 | 1:15 | 8:00 | 1:45 |
| Thurs. | 8:20 | 2:10 | 8:45 | 2:30 |

# SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The New **ELSIE K III** "It's Worth Finding Us!"

WEAKS - STRIPERS - BLUES 5 P.M., Wed. & Sat. Nites • MOONLIGHT CRUISE (2 Hrs.) Sun. Nights at 7 P.M.

**FLUKE 7A.M. DAILY**

*FREE Bait, Rods & Parking*

Sun Deck • Ladies Accommodations!
Senior Citizen Rates Every Day!
FINEST CLIENTELE & SERVICE

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Sailing from Tamaqua Fishing Sta. Take Belt Pkwy. To Knapp St. exit & follow Tamaqua Signs.

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SMALL & LARGE GROUPS
Special Weekday Rates - Bait, Tackle, Ice Incl.

★ *For Charter* ★

**APACHE II**

★ Afternoon & Evening Charters ★
BLUEFISH • WEAKFISH
BASS • FLUKE
Exit 9, Belt Pkwy. (Knapp St.)
Capt. Neal **(212) 336-4979**

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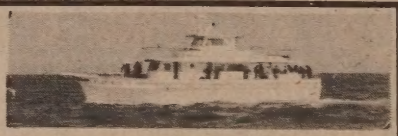
*We Spare No Effort to Make Your Day Out the Very Best!*

**Flamingo III**



New • Fast • Clean • Comfortable

**6:30AM Daily; Blues & Weaks ★ 7 PM Fri & Sat Blues**

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*—Owned and run by the Wiegand family—*

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Pier 6 - Sheepshead Bay - 65' Twin Diesel

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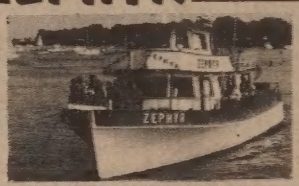
SHEEPSHEAD BAY • PIER 1

**ZEPHYR** FLUKE



FREE RODS - FAMILY ATMOSPHERE
SR. CIT. & GROUP RATES - RESTAURANT
**7 A.M. DAILY**
Capt. Butch (212) 253-8517 after 6PM

---

7 A.M. FLUKE 7 A.M.

**DOROTHY B VII**

4:30 P.M. Fri., Sat. & Sun.
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Pier 6; Capt Kevin (212) 646-4057

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**STORMY**

6 MAN LIMIT ★ FULLY EQUIPPED
SHARK ★ TUNA ★ BLUES ★ BOTTOM
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SPECIAL WEEKDAY RATES
—UP TO 20 PASSENGERS—
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CAPT STEVE TIMMIS 516-599-1878

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BLUES - BASS - WEAKS
FISHING DAY & EVENINGS
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Fluke 11A.M. Daily
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Space Age Electronics

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FULLY EQUIPPED • 6 MAN LIMIT
Capt. John **(212) 326-0835**

---

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dous during the week at Cholera with fish 10-14 lb. being chummed. Smaller blues are being trolled off the beaches and at the Tin Can. A few schoolie bass and weaks mixed in at the Can. Nine year old Eric Haag had his first striper Thursday trolling a white bucktail west of the AB bridge.

At **Atlantic Beach** Capt. Ron Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** told of super bluefishing for larger fish 5-15 lbs. which he is trolling along the Jersey coast. Ron's csharter are also averaging 5-6 weaks everyday too. This is a good sign and most fish are off the Highlands. A few school bass mixed in as well. Blues are just armpit deep from Cholera to Three Sisters, being caught all methods.

At at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** advised that blackfish are still at either end of the AB bridge being taken on fiddler crabs. Hotspots for fluke this week have been the Island Park railroad trestle, Cement Block and Duck Point on killie-squid combos. Blues being trolled from the Lido Hotel/west. Small blues are closer in along with some weaks on trolled umbrellas. Weaks starting to be caught at the can on umbrellas in the evening.

Over in **East Rockaway, Skippy's Bait and Tackle** reported very good fluking in the back, particularly Hog Channel area and Duck Point area. Snappers small but plentiful and bccs fair, all at Bay Park. Blues have been dynamite at Cholera said Skip.

## NEW YORK BIGHT

In **Jamaica Bay** Julie at **J-Bay Boat Rental** told of the blues 4-7 lbs. being taken on bunker chunks at Silver Hole. Small blues are also around hitting small tins. Charles Wanderer scored with 15 keepers on live killies at Silver Hole. There are plenty of very small porgies and snappers all around the bay and bccs are "fair."

Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** advised that porgies off both bridges are small but that fluke catches off the bridges have been fair. Very good catches of blues and weaks off the bridges and also some small bass on bunker chunks. Joe Roman had a 13 lb. blue and an 11 lb. weak from the south channel bridge on bunker chunks. Victor Figueroa workikng off the South Channel bridge had a 10 lb. blue while Lou Bologangno fishing off the Marine Pkwy bridge took an 8¾ weak. A killie-squid combo accounted for a 6 lb. 9 oz. fluke taken from Jamaica Bay.

In **Sheepshead Bay** Wee Willie at **Mike's Bait and Tackle** passed the word that fluking has been very good off the Rockaways and on the blackside of Ambrose on squid and spearing. Night bluefishing has been excellent at 17 Fathoms. This is bait and chum. A few weaks from Princess Bay on chunks and sand worms. A few porgies and sea bass scattered around, but blackfishing a very good

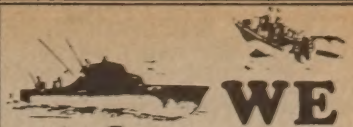
**Jerry Becker shows the 11 lb. blackfish he decked on a recent trip aboard the City Island open boat, "Apache."**

item. Bass are being brought in by the sharpies using worms but it's a secret, said Wee Willie as to where they are doing the catching.

From the **Elsie K III** we hear of big fluke being caught on the boat all week off the Jersey coast and at the channels. Thursday, Jacob Friedle had an 8.10 lb. fluke. Friday Otto Hellwege had a 10.14 lber. Mary Butler took an 8 lb. 10 oz. fluke, while Bruce Simels had to be happy with this 6.2 fluke. Over 100 fluke bettering 4 lbs. were taken for the week. The evening bluefish trips have been very productive with more weaks starting to show in the catches.

Captain Butch of the **Zephyr** advised that fluking was good during the week in the Sandy Hook bay area with catches averaging 10-15 fluke a man up to 3 lbs. Saturday and Sunday the boat fished the Jersey coast with fewer fish taken but heavier fish in the 2½ to 8 lb. range. Arthur Buck of Richmond Hill on Friday took an 8 lb. 8 oz. fluke.

Across the wet stuff in **Staten Island**, we hear from Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** that the big news for the week has been blues to 17 lbs. and weaks to 11 lbs. on bunker chunks in the morning hours off Stapleton Piers 8, 12, and 17. Small snappers have moved in as have 4-5 inch tinker mackerel. Try the weakfish inside Great Kills Harbor/Annandale. These fish are averaging 8 lbs. and are hitting drifted sandworms, trolled single tubes, bucktails or drift sandworm. The fluking along South Beach and the Berger Ave. storm sewers and Great Kills Park has been fair on squid and spearing. Small blues are seemingly all over the place. Lots of sand porgies off the Stapleton Piers also and bccs in Great Kills Harbor.



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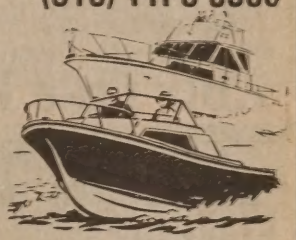

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**Fishing For Flounder**

***by Dr. William A. Muller***

*Includes Chapters On:*

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★ Baits and Rigs
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★ Fishing Techniques
★ Where To Go
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OFF OF PELHAM RD. NEW ROCHELLE

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BLUEFISH - 8A.M. DAILY
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# North Shore REPORT
## with Marty Garrell

Action on mixed bluefish dominates the center of the Island with some large weaks under the blues at times. Fluking off the East End is quite good and porgies are available on all fronts. Bass action in flurries is a nighttime proposition.

## WESTERN SOUND

Jack Rumpf at **Jack's Bait** on **City Island** said that worm drifters and plug fisehrmen with Rebels had nice bass to 15 pounds. Bluefish to the west were spotty with some 2-4 pound fish showing off Steppingstone Light and in Little Neck Bay.

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** saw quite a few bass taken from midnight til dawn. Ron Oldenburg accounted for 30 linesiders to 10 pounds. Sand poriges were off Center Island and At McKenzie boasted of a 10¾ pound weakfish on Saturday night.

From **New Rochelle**, the **Klondike VIII** was running toward Smithtown to sing the blues with 5-30 fish to 5 pounds per rod. Friday's catch included a few weaks, and the boat has been carrying very well. From City Island, Dom Cerbone's **Apache** has been mining silver off Huntington and west of Eatons when the traffic permits. Porgies are mostly ¾ to 1 pound with a few larger fish plus some small weaks mixed in. From Glen Cove, Joe Fink's **Lady Lil III** traveled to Smithtown Bay for some good action on blues and weaks with 2 ounce jigs and occasional tubes. The skipper told us that some folks Saturday had 3 or 4 weaks to 12

**Captain Bill "Lil' Packy" Collins of the "Ever Ready II" shows the 10.15 lb. tautog he caught at Eaton's Neck.**

pounds and that Sunday's haul totaled 30-35 tiderunners among the blues. Bluefish catches during Saturday's slaughter ran to 40 per rod. Frank Ackley's **Tarpon** got in on the action with downriggers for Earl Ellis and family and figures an average of 30-40 fish easily. Sunday's activity was off Crab Meadow in 10' of water.

## NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Hot actin on Saturday off Sunken Meadow and the mouth of the Nissequogue was reported by George Valentine of **Four Winds**. The key to the blues and weaks was catching the turn of the tide for one hot hour. Most of the weaks were over 6 pounds with plenty of 2-6 pound choppers above them. Exemplary tiderunners were weighed by Elin Zebroski and Vin Mariana, fish of 8 pounds, 1 ounce and 9 pounds, 14 ounces, respectively. According to Valentine, bass action continued for worm merchants on fish to 16 pounds taken on both sides of the tide, and porgies from ½ pound were everywhere. Spectacular fluking off Eatons was the norm on Saturday with a few fish topping 6 pounds. Joey Schneider's 15 poiund, 2 ounce doormat taken on an umbrella was the best seen locally in a long, long time. The Cedars at **Huntington Prop** figured that blues in cocktail sizes were all over, off the docks as well as outside. Biggest weak seen Saturday at the shop was 9 pounds.

Tom Bowman from **Bowman's** said that East was better with fishing for blues and weaks tops between first light and 11:30AM. Porgies could be taken on the change of tides off Makamah, and there were still some local blackfish around.

The **Caraftis Fishing Station** in **Port Jefferson** reported fluke off White Beach and Flack's Pond with fish around 3 pounds. High outgoing water was best. Porgies could be taken off Oldfield and a few weakfish around 7 pounds were reported as well.

Dick Brown from **Dick's Sporting Goods** in **Mount Sinai** described "damned good fluking" off Miller Place with generally good porgy fishing all over. The evening was preferred for weaks off buoys 9 and 11 with AVA 27's, Spoon Jigs and sandeels jigs working very well for weaks and blues.

Ken Freeman at the **Angler's Den** in **Selden** figures that the Sound now has the largest run of weaks anywehre and that the fluking is superb all the way from the Cabanas east to Wading River. During the past week, Freeman weighed some large weaks and saw mixed sizes of blues from 2 pounds up.

Packy Collins gave us a detailed description of the action on weaks and blues on the **Ever Ready** last week. Usually there are 2-3 good days then a


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**Pete Bilella and Ken Bedrossan with 25 weaks taken on diamond jig and tube combos in Long Island Sound near Southold. The pair fished out of Port of Egypt Fishing Station.**

stiff one, but the boat almost always has an early shot at the fish right after sailing time at 7AM. Saturday's action was a bonanza with Sunday a reasonable pick of blues. Some of the fishing is off Sunken Meadow, Cranes and Port Jeff, but most of the hunting is in Smithtown Bay. Weaks often go 8-10 with blues 2-4 and tubes help on occasion for the weaks. Aboard the **Packy IV**, Capt. Billy showed the Parker charter 98 blues and a pair of weaks, while the Striano charter pulled 55 blues to 7 pounds in 4 hours.

## NORTH FORK

Willie at **Warren's** in **Aquebogue** spoke of a body of fluke east of Mattituck Inlst last Thursday with ¾ keepers and a very occasional 5 pound flattie. The steady six day flow of northwesterlies seems to have pushed the body of fish steadily eastward and some of the best action may be toward the eastern tip at Orient. Porgies have been pretty good at Mattituck Inlet according to Liz Caraftis at the **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station.** Mixed sizes of fish are east and west of the inlet in 20-25' of water.

Cocktail bluefish provide plenty of action all day long in the North Race, but fishing is best around the turn of the tide, said Phil Loria at **Capt. Marty's.** One boat lucked into a pod of summer weaks south of Nassau Point and totaled 49. Most anglers see a weak or two per boat along with mixed porgies which are now tending to smaller sizes in the Peconics.

Jim Dunkirk at the **Port of Egypt** feels that there are a few larger porgies left around buoy 16 but that the larger fish can generally be found at Mashomack Point. Jessups blues are a turn of the tide proposition. Evenwith the northwesterlies, the Port of Egypt had 22 boats fluking on Saturday and Sunday out of Orient.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait**

(Continued on page 59.)

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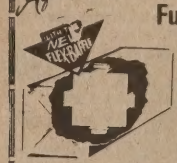

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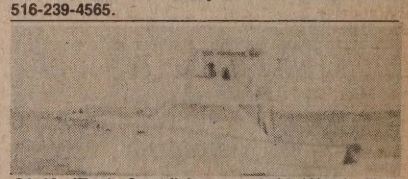

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1975 SILVERTON 27' 225 hp Chrysler FWC, 200 hrs. VHF, DF, compass, Bimini top; 110 dockside. Many extras. Excl. cond. $12,500. 516-872-3195.

1974 26' MAKO Marine. One of only 69 made. Twin new 4-cyl. 470 FWC Turbocharged engines. Pipewelders tower. Fully equip. 516-728-4220. Days. Tom.

15' Winner Bowrider, new steering, Evinrude controls & elec. start. No motor. Excl. cond.; in water. $500. 516-242-5110 bet. 8AM-3PM. Wkdys.

SEA OX 17'-23', CC & Walkarounds. Phoenix 27'-38'. Stamas 24'-32' cabins & walkarounds. Glassport 17'-20' Runabouts. Johnson Motors, 2-235 hp. Most models in stock. You'll love our prices. STEIN'S BOAT & MOTOR SALES, Sayville, NY, 516-567-3313.

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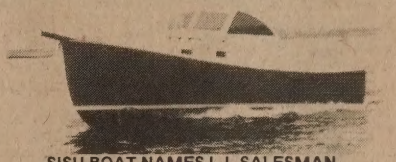

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Ken Turco, Hampton Bays, sells all Sisu 22', 26' & 30' boats. Center Console, Bass Boats, Lobster Boats. 516-728-5127 after 5PM, or Sisu, 603-749-4452 Days.

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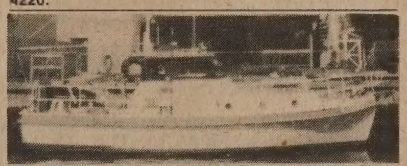

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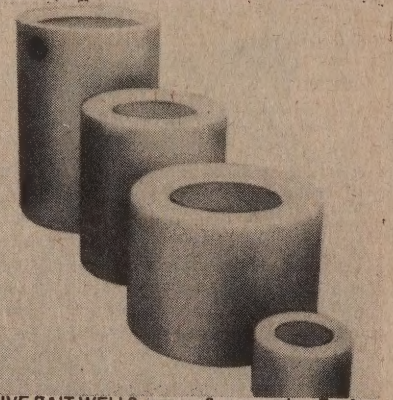

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#6 Sproat Flounder hooks. Hand-tied. 6/$1.00. AL KAPLAN, 35-63 80th St., Jackson Hgts. NY 11372.

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FISHING FOR TROUT—112 pgs. w/tips on spinning, fly casting, trolling & drift fishing for trout. Info on steelheads, lakers, sea run trout, browns, brookies & rainbow; bait rigs, lures, fly hatches. By Andy Gennaro. $4.95 + $.75 shipping. THE FISHERMAN LIBRARY, 339 Herbertsville Rd., Brick Town, NJ 08723.

WANTED: Loran C numbers—wrecks, rocks, reefs—N.Y. Bight area. Will trade my numbers for yours. Strictly confidential; for my own use on 21' boat. 212-646-5143

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Complete Shark fishing equip. Good condition, reasonable price: 2 rods/reels, gaff, hooks, tail line, harnesses-standing, sitting; gimbal, etc. 212-245-1369. Ask for Alan.

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For as little as $149.95 you can protect your boat & equipment from theft & vandalism—electronically. AGS-2000 is an easily installed unit that ends your worries about boat & equipment theft. Equipment only or installed. Free survey. AGS SECURITY, Box 606M, Bay Shore, NY 11706. 516-666-3334.

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Captain John—fully licensed. Light tackle only. Running every evening; 2 or 3-man charters. Lower Westchester. Reasonable. After 7PM. 592-9126.

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BOAT SLIPS Available. Individual water & electric. Ten minutes to Jones Inlet. Freeport's Woodcleft Canal. $375. 516-868-8266.

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HELP WANTED
$100 per week. Part-time at home. No experience necessary. Call 805-687-6000, ext. L-3617.

## REAL ESTATE

DISTRESS SALE: Three prime lots in Silver Spring Shores, Florida. $20,000 for all 3. 516-433-4427.

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1970 Ford BRONCO, 1980 302 eng. Many extras & new parts. Set up for beach. No rust. Excl. cond. $2700 Firm. After 6PM. 516-887-4413.

78 GMC Sub. Setup for fishing. Auto, PS, PB, AC. Tinted win., CB, radio, tape, alarm, bed, sink. Goodrich, all tran tires, roof rack, frame for 150 qt. cooler. Must see. $4500. Days: 212-SH 3-8744.

**Shop** in **Greenport** told us that the Ruins provide fair fluking with not too many throwbacks. East Marion still has some large fluke though numbers are low and the west channel as well as Gardiners is worth a shot for bigger weaks when these show on the sonar scans.

John Duggan of the **Peconic Star** called to say that porgy fishing finally picked up on Saunday after a tough week and that the boat found the mother lode for anglers like the Jeff Williamsons who went home with 150 scup from the Gardiner's area. George Porter also caught well on Sunday and figures that things will break out early this week after 6 days of northwest wind scattered the schools.

John Rainis of the **Blue Albatross** has been fluking on the Sound and finding fish all the way from keepables to 7½ pounds off sundry little bars. Even though it's still early, the fluking has been good.

Just before deadline, Larry Ciccotto called to tell us that the **Prime Time II** has alternately fluking the Sound and the Ruins with pool fish running 4-9 poiunds and catches ranging from 6-12 per fare depending on angler skill. Guady fluke rigs are inconsistent at best with simple plain hooks the rule. The boat is working in 30' depths with only light sinkers required on the rigs.

# Surf REPORT
## *with Fred Golofaro*

Plenty of action around the Island's beaches this week, though much of it consists of small blues. The 1 to 4 lb. choppers continue to clog south shore inlets and put in regular dawn and dusk appearances at a number of north shore beaches between Smithtown Bay and Rocky Point. Some weaks are at the inlets but tough to get at through the blues. Montauk continues to provide some very fine weakfish action with the best of it reserved for late night tides. Decent numbers of bass appear to be settled in along many of the rocky points jutting into Long Island Sound. This, too, is primarily after dark action on swimming plug and dropper combos. Here's how things shaped up after this week's phoning.

Both Democrat Point and the Cedar Beach-Sore Thumb area continue to be inundated with small choppers. The Cove adjacent to the Thumb and the bar (which is again accessible) at the tip of Democrat have produced the wildest fishing. A few weaks are mixed with the blues on some days at each spot. Half dozen nice weaks fell to casters early Saturday at Democrat

**George Muhlbauer and Jerry LaCastro with six of eight blues to 14 lbs. taken south of Jones Inlet. Bob Barra also had a hand in the catching. Photo courtesy of Skippy's Tackle in East Rockaway.**

amid a blitz of small blues.

A similar picture of loads of small blues on both sides of Moriches Inlet was painted by Paul Graniello of **J&J Tackle** in **Patchogue.** In addition to the blues, the east side jetty has been surrendering quite a few school bass to casters throwing Rebels and RedFins after dark.

While dawn and dusk action has declined considerably at Montauk, those working well into the night continue to rack up some very fine weakfish scores, according to Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** in Montauk. Working Gin Beach and Shagwong during the week, a couple of Farragut Striper Club members managed scores of as high as 10 fish per man per night on Rebels and RedFins fished in conjunction with Red Gill Droppers. John managed some fish himself one night, despite strong northwest winds, by switching over to a one ounce Tri-Fin Spoon Jig.

Up on the north shore, Caumsett provided casters with some school bass and a few small blues after dark on Friday and Saturday nights. Weakfish remained few and far between here according to Ronnie Ferraro of **Ronnie's Tackle** in **Huntington.**

At Sunken Meadow State Park, blues come and go at dawn and dusk with a few bass to 10 lbs. being taken on night tides. John Reuschle had a pair of husky schoolies there on Friday night.

To the east, Stan Henchel of **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** told of good numbers of bass in the Port Jefferson area as well as to the east of Wading River. Most are schoolies but some good fish are mixed with them. The problem in most cases is hanging onto them. The bass seem to have replaced last week's heavy concentrations of weakfish to the east. Plenty of 2-5 lb. blues along all local beaches between Cedar Beach (Mt. Sinai) to Rocky Point mornings and evenings. Spoon jigs have been the hot item and when the fish get fussy, Red Gill droppers turn the trick.

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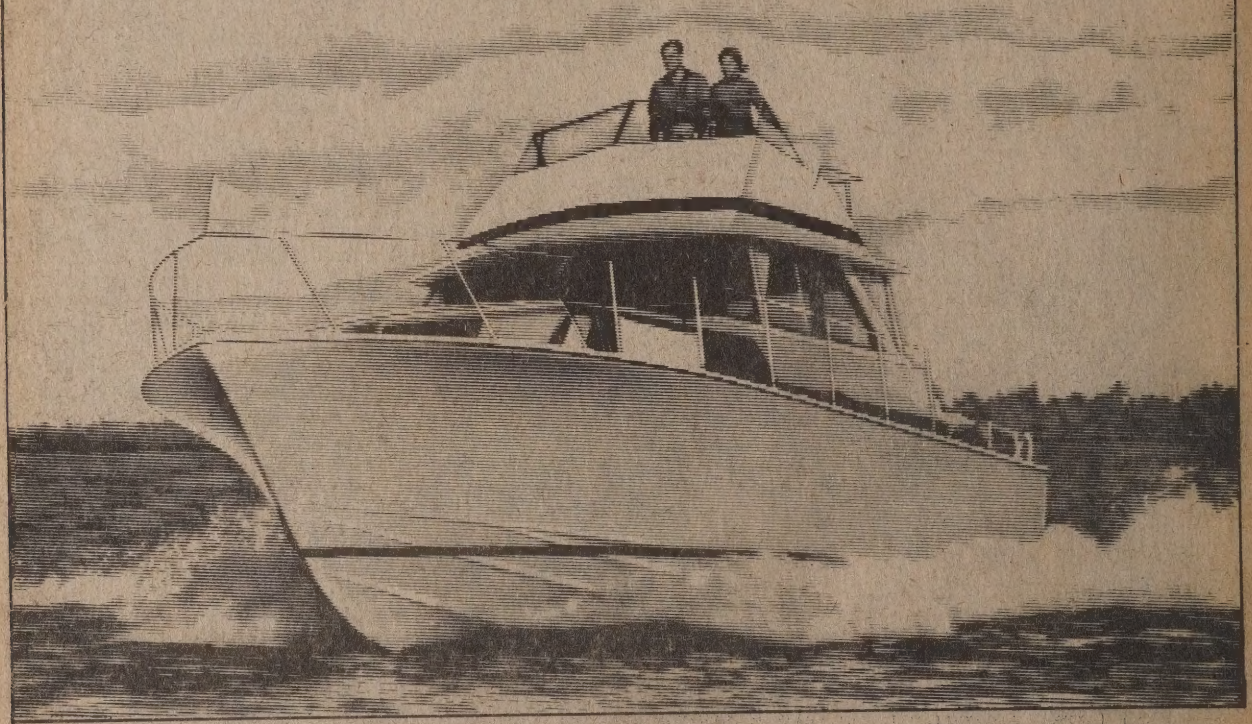

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